

### Adelaide Alsop Robineau

Adelaide Alsop Robineau was a female ceramic artist who lived and worked right here in Syracuse. She studied and taught porcelain painting. Eventually, she began creating her own ceramics, primarily made of porcelain. She is known for her intricate designs and experimental glaze techniques. Her work is part of the Arts & Crafts movement. This style stressed the importance of quality materials and craftsmanship.



### Scarab Vase

Robineau created the Scarab Vase in 1910 while working at University City Pottery in St. Louis, Missouri. Decorated with scarab beetles, the vase is a stunning example of Robineau's skill and believed to be her greatest masterpiece. The repeating design depicts scarab beetles in the act of pushing their eggs, encased in balls of dung, upwards in a never-ending battle against gravity. This continuous effort of the beetle reflects the theme of the vase, which Robineau named *The Apotheosis of the Toiler* due to the one thousand hours of painstaking work required to carve the design.



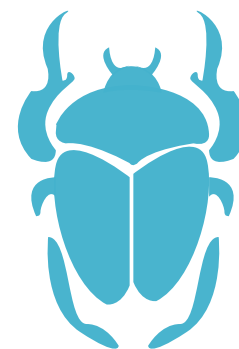
# Exploring the Scarab Vase



Scarab Vase, 1911  
Adelaide Alsop Robineau  
Porcelain, 16 5/8 x 6 in. diameter.  
Collection Everson Museum of Art,  
PC 30.4.78a,b,c

## The Scarab Beetle

is an Egyptian Hieroglyphic sign that represents hard work and rebirth. Robineau chose the beetle to represent the patience and skill that is demanding of a craftsman and the many hours of hard, repetitive work needed to create beautiful works of art.



*Can you find the image of the Scarab beetle carved into the vase?*

*How many beetles do you think there are?*



**FUN FACT:** Robineau spent over 1,000 hours creating this piece. WOW!

## Let's get creative

*If you were to make a vase what decoration might you choose?  
What would it represent?*

Grab a pencil and piece of paper and draw your ideas!

# Activity: Dig in to clay

## Salt Dough Recipe

Follow this easy recipe to make your own clay right at home! The dough can be kept in an airtight container.

2 cups flour  
1 cup salt  
1 cup water

- Mix flour and salt in a large mixing bowl
- Slowly add water while stirring, it will begin to form a dough-like consistency
- Form the dough into a ball and knead for approximately 5 minutes. If the dough is still too sticky add a small amount of flour, if it is too dry, add a small amount of water at a time until you achieve desired consistency

Now it's time to create! Let your imagination soar to create your very own works of art.

When complete place your works on a baking sheet and bake in the oven at 200 degrees. Baking time will depend on the size and thickness.

## SHARE

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