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Making a Menorah

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Making a Menorah

Abstract

In my First Year Seminar Class, I designed and crafted a menorah and matching candles using the 3D printer and wax. I worked on this project over the course of a few weeks, facing construction obstacles along the way, but in the end I was thrilled with the results.

Keywords

Jewish, Hannukah, Creative

Disciplines

Art and Design | Jewish Studies

Comments

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INTRODUCING MY PROJECT:

IN MY FIRST YEAR SEMINAR CLASS “CREATIVITY MAKING AND FAILURE”, I WAS ENCOURAGED TO USE CREATIVE THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING IN ORDER TO CREATE PROJECTS USING THE 3D PRINTER, LASER CUTTER, AND MANY OTHER RESOURCES IN THE INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY LAB. FOR MY FINAL PROJECT, I DECIDED TO TAKE ON A CHALLENGE BY MAKING A MENORAH WITH CANDLES; I HAD NEVER PREVIOUSLY USED WAX IN ANY OF MY PROJECTS, AND HAD NO EXPERIENCE MAKING CANDLES. HOWEVER, I WAS REALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS PROJECT IDEA BECAUSE IT RESEMBLES MY JEWISH IDENTITY IN A FUN AND CREATIVE WAY, SO I KNEW I HAD TO GO THROUGH WITH IT!

THE PROCESS:

WHEN MAKING THE MENORAH, I BEGAN WITH DESIGNING THE STRUCTURE ON THE TINKERCAD WEBSITE. I HAD BEEN WORKING WITH TINKERCAD THE ENTIRE SEMESTER, SO I WAS WELL VERSED ON HOW TO USE IT; FOLLOWING THE INITIAL DESIGNING PROCESS, I SENT OVER THE DESIGN TO THE 3D PRINTER AND WAITED APPROXIMATELY 13 HOURS FOR THE MENORAH TO PRINT. IN THE MEANTIME, I HEATED UP SOME WAX ON A STOVE AND GATHERED SOME CUT UP WICKS FROM SOME CANDLES THAT I HAD FOUND IN THE CLASSROOM. I DIPPED THE WICKS INTO THE HOT WAX, WHICH TOOK A BIT OF PRACTICE TO PERFECT, BUT AFTER WHILE, I WAS ABLE TO CREATE THE 8 CANDLES. I ALLOWED THEM TO DRY, AND ONCE THE MENORAH WAS READY, I MADE SURE THE CANDLES WERE THE PERFECT SIZE FOR THEIR PLACEHOLDERS.

BY MAYA LILY KNOLLER

MAKING A MENORAH

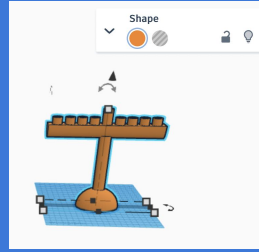


FIGURE 1. CREATING THE MENORAH ON TINKERCAD

FIGURE 2. USING A CLAMP TO SECURE THE GLUE ATTACHING THE DOWEL TO ALL PIECES OF THE MENORAH

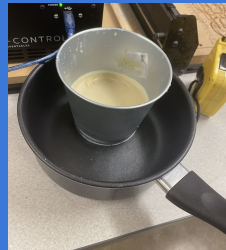
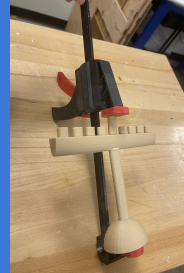


FIGURE 3. HEATING UP WAX TO MAKE THE CANDLES

SOME ERRORS:

ALTHOUGH THIS PROJECT TURNED OUT SUCCESSFUL, THERE WERE SOME ERRORS ALONG THE WAY. THE FIRST ERROR WAS THAT I INITIALLY PRINTED TOO SMALL OF A MENORAH, AND THE PLASTIC HOLDING THE CANDLES WAS TOO THIN AND BROKE EASILY, SO I HAD TO START FROM SCRATCH AND MAKE A NEW ONE. MY SECOND ERROR WAS THAT I PRINTED THE WHOLE MENORAH AS ONE PIECE. I SHOULD HAVE PRINTED THE MENORAH IN SEPARATE PIECES BECAUSE IT WAS FRAGILE AND BROKE ALMOST INSTANTLY. TO FIX THIS, I HAD TO DRILL A HOLE INTO THE CENTER OF THE MENORAH, AND INSERT AND GLUE A DOWEL TO ALL THE PIECES IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THAT THE STRUCTURE WAS SECURE. I USED A CLAMP TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTION IN ENSURING THAT THE DOWEL WOULD HOLD.

CONCLUSION:

I TRULY ENJOYED WORKING ON THE “MAKING A MENORAH” PROJECT BECAUSE IT REQUIRED ME TO USE CRITICAL THINKING AND CREATIVITY IN ORDER TO MAKE A COMPLETE AND SUCCESSFUL PROJECT. ALTHOUGH IT WAS DIFFICULT AT TIMES, I AM GLAD THAT I TOOK ON THE CHALLENGE OF MAKING THIS MENORAH, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WAS RIGHT ON TIME FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON!