

ANTONI TÀPIES

→ Barcelona, 1923 / Barcelona, 2012



ANTONI TÀPIES was a very important artist who made use of the language of symbols and employed previously unused techniques.

The sculpture we see in the image is a stele, a **commemorative monument** with inscriptions on it, such as symbols, texts or signs, to create a record of the imprint left by our ancestors. In this case, Tàpies has made a stele from a block of terracotta using the technique of **fire clay**, broken pieces of baked clay mixed with fresh clay. By using this technique, the artist manages to increase the thermal resistance of the material in the baking process. Once he has created this mix, Tàpies enamels the front and then marks a series of incisions using the teeth of a key.

We can see common features of HIS LANGUAGE in these inscriptions: the **letter A**, initial of his name; the **letter T**, initial of his surname but also the initial of his wife's name, Teresa; **hearts**, and even **a foot**. This foot could also symbolize the imprint left by the artist as a signature on his creation.



In the image you can see the artwork **Estela II (Stele II)**, a sculpture by the artist Antoni Tàpies, made in 1988.



Have you ever made a stele? Today is your chance!

The first step is to get a block of clay and make it a rectangular shape, not too thick. Don't worry if it doesn't look perfect, this is a feature of TÀPIES' ARTWORK!

Then use a tool to make incisions into the clay. If you're feeling brave, you could use a key or another sharp object and make inscriptions like the artist did! **It's important to think carefully about what you want to immortalize** in your stele: the initial of your name, an object that you feel very identified with (a ball, flower or an animal).

As an option, you could enamel the stele and then it's done!

Let's go!



Title: Estela II

Year: 1988

Technique: Enamel on fire clay

Measure: 24 x 39 x 5,5 cm

Location: Can Mario Museum



Materials:

A block of clay, any tool that you can use to make the inscriptions, such as a punch, the tip of a pencil or the teeth of a key, and, optionally, ceramic enamel paint.

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