



arttails

by MONET MOUSE

"No bird soars too high if he soars with his own wings"

-William Blake

MONET MOUSE'S ARTRECIPE ♥TLC Nests

Ingredients:

- Sedona red clay
- Wooden sticks or toothpicks
- Small brushes
- Water cup
- Paper towels
- Acrylic paint
- MOD PODGE® or acrylic gloss medium

Build your nest with ♥TLC, tender loving care.

- ♥ Pat and roll a lump of clay between the palms of your hands.
- ♥ Make a ball no larger than the size of a tennis ball. (It can even be smaller.)
- ♥ Press into the center of the ball with your thumb.
- ♥ Hold the clay ball in your cupped hands and fit both of your thumbs in the hole.
- ♥ Gently press and turn the ball to make the opening a little larger.
- ♥ Keep the edges of your nest as wide as your fingers or they will be too thin and break when the clay dries.
- ♥ Make certain the base of the nest is strong so little eggs and birds will be safe and sound.
- ♥ Use the wooden stick or toothpick to scratch

details inside and outside your nest.

- ♥ Roll tiny clay balls to shape small eggs and birds that will live in your nest.
- ♥ Make simple compact shapes with this kind of clay. When it dries and bakes, fragile wings and attached pieces tend to break off.
- ♥ Dry your pieces separately outside of the nest.
- ♥ When completely dry, bake in a 450 oven for at least 2 hours. Or on a hot sunny day, let the pieces bake in the sun all afternoon.
- ♥ You can paint your birds and nest with acrylic paint.
- ♥ When dry, the paint can be coated with MOD PODGE® or an acrylic gloss medium to seal and give your ceramic sculptures some shine.

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MONET MOUSE'S ARTRECIPE Eyes-Like-A-Hawk

Ingredients:

- Feathers, birds, bird nests
- Magnifying glass
- Pencils and/or other drawing material
- Erasers (kneaded erasers are a lot of fun!)
- Paper

Do you know there are birds, especially those like hawks, that see 8 times better than us? So watch out Monet Mouse, some hawks can see a mouse a mile away!

Have references for your drawings. Look outside at the birds. Visit a nature center. Check out books from the library or find photos online. Arrange some bird stuffed animals.

What do you see when you REALLY look at what you are going to draw? On your paper, outline the shape of the bird, feathers, nest - whatever your model. When you draw with pencil, try to draw lightly. Monet Mouse calls this gentle kind of sketching a 'whisper drawing' because it is so soft and light. He is not pressing hard with the pencil so he can erase and make changes easily. Voila! When certain of his whisper drawing, he darkens the lines.

You are an art detective! Examine the model more closely, even with a magnifying glass. What else do you notice? Amazing details like special lines and textures? Add them to your shapes. This kind of look-closely-drawing is called a study.

 Monet Mouse

A light gray silhouette of a red-tailed hawk in flight, with its wings spread wide, positioned behind the title text.

RED-TAILED HAWK