LOOK at these two hand-built clay artworks. Both have smooth areas and areas with texture.

Which artwork has texture made by pressing objects into the smooth clay to make a pattern? Which texture was made by attaching clay parts on top of the smooth surfaces of the artwork?

When parts of a sculpture rise above a flat background the sculpture is in relief. Lincoln’s head rising above the surface of a penny is in low relief. The shells on Newsome sculpture are in high relief.

LEARN that both artists are also collectors. Both artists moved from another part of the U.S. to live in Arizona. Newsome grew up in the redwood forest of California. She collected shells and pressed flowers when she was a child. Blaine grew up in the Midwest. She takes a walk every day. She collects objects she finds as she looks where her feet are walking.

Which artwork do you think was inspired by natural objects? What natural objects? Which artwork do you think was inspired by manufactured objects? What makes your think so?

COMPARE the two artworks. Both are vessels. Vessels are containers that can hold things.

Which vessel has an open top and could hold a bouquet of flowers or dried plants with long stems? Which vessel is a box with a lid that could hold candy, nuts or other small things?

Read something each artist says about her work: Newsome says her black and white pieces are “shadowy” and explore the “night and darkness.” Blaine says she uses “what we throw away every day without thought” in her art.

Choose one of these two artworks to INTERPRET.

Artist Name: _____________________________ Artwork Title: _____________________________

Circle the words you might use to describe the artwork.
creepy  elegant  mysterious  orderly  mechanical  other word:

Complete one of the following sentences about what the artwork means to you:
This artwork is about _________________________________________________________________.
This artwork gives me a _________________________________ feeling.