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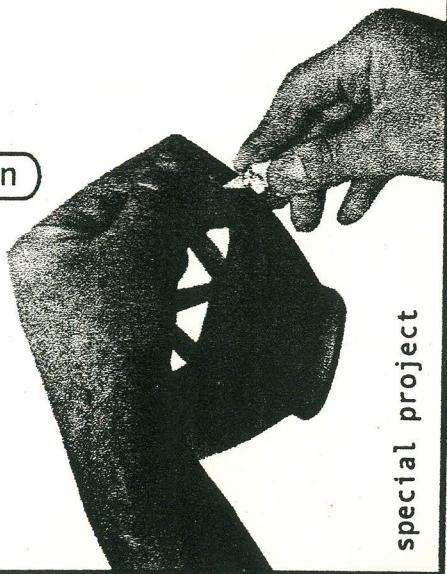
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# enhancing the other side pottery

guide

vanmala jain



special project

# APPROVAL SHEET

This Visual communication Special project entitled 'Enhancing the other side of pottery', is hereby approved as partial fulfilment for the degree of Master of Design.

Guide: Vannala Jain

Internal Examiner -1:

Internal Examiner - 2:

## pottery

pottery is any kind of dishes, pots, vases, or any objects that are formed of clay and baked until they are hard. the finest chinaware and the roughest clay pots are both forms of pottery. the science of making pottery is called ceramics. pottery has been called the oldest of all of the art forms. men were making pottery thousands of years before metal was ever discovered. throughout the time period before the introduction of metal, man learned and developed hundreds of different ways of making pottery and decorating it so that it can be beautiful as well as practical.

### clay used in pottery

wet clay can be worked into various different shapes and moldings because of its dough like condition. clay is made up of tiny particles that cling together when wet but are easily separated when dry. once clay is burned, it can never again be worked or molded.

clay is found in all stages of purity. it is often combined with sand, iron, or vegetable matter so that it is not fit for use. the purest form of clay is called kaolin. ball clay is not as pure as kaolin and is used in the making of most table dishes.

all clay that is baked at low temperature is porous, meaning it has the ability to absorb water. clay that is baked at higher temperatures vitrifies, that is, becomes glassy and no longer has the capability of absorbing water. all clay products can be classified as porous or vitrified. tableware that you find in the store can be either of these two classes of clay... while porcelain is vitrified.

## pottery

### methods of forming

the earliest method of making pottery was probably the hand method of building. coils of clay are wound around, one on top of the other, and stuck together by pressing with the hands. the clay is first made into a soft state by working it with water. the dish is then shaped and molded by hand, once the coils are all welded together.

once circular objects were invented, the potter's wheel was used as a tool for creating pottery. with this method of forming, a pile of clay is placed on a revolving circular plate and is shaped by the wet hands of the potter. the water keeps his hands from sticking to the clay and keeps the clay moist and workable. handles, spouts, and other protrusions from the spinning clay is placed on just before the object is fired.

it is believed that the egyptians were the inventor's of the pottery wheel. whether this is true or not, we know that they were using it at least six thousand years ago. the ancient greeks used it, and their vases were beautiful in their richness and simplicity of color and shape and the refined quality of their decorations. the greeks used red clay almost entirely and the vases constructed by them usually had handles.

### casting

casting is often used today when pottery of a high quality is desired and when the walls are to be very thin. a mixture of clay and water, called slip, is poured into a plaster-of-Paris mold. The plaster-of-Paris absorbs the water, causing a thin coat of clay to be deposited all around the inside of the mold. When the deposit of clay is thick enough to form

## pottery

the walls of the vase, the rest of the slip is poured out, leaving the wet piece of ware on the inside of the form. As this dries it shrinks somewhat and can be removed from the mold. Usually the molds are so constructed that they can be taken apart.

### Firing

When the piece becomes thoroughly dry it is smoothed and prepared for the firing process. It is placed in a fire-clay box called a sagger, which protects the piece from the flames and gases that are emitted during the process, just as an oven would protect a loaf of bread that is being baked. The saggers are placed one on top of another in a kiln. The kiln is a large structure that is built of fire brick and surrounded by flues so that the flames of the fire may totally surround the dishes, yet never actually come in contact with them. Smoke would discolor the pieces if they were not protected in such a manner.

Most pieces are fired at least twice. The first time through the kiln is called the bisque firing and the piece of pottery is called a biscuit or bisque piece.

The temperature for firing bisque chinaware is roughly 2,263 F and lasts about 50 hours from the time the saggers are placed until the desired heat is reached. The kiln then takes from two to three day to cool down. The biscuit is then taken from the kiln and rubbed with a piece of wood to break all of the loose pieces from the side of the pottery. Once this is done, heavyware is then placed into a tumbling mill, which is similar to a drying machine. It tumbles the pottery in much the same fashion that a clothes dryer would tumble your garments, breaking away even more of the extra clay that has stuck to the sides of the pottery.

## pottery

The bisque ware is now glazed. A glaze is just a glassy, glossy coating that makes the pottery more beautiful and serviceable. Glazes contain the main ingredient in making glass, silica. When the glaze is applied to the pottery and is completely dry, it is again placed back into the kiln, and is fired at such a high temperature that the glaze melts and runs together. If the pottery is to be decorated this is done after the second firing is complete. The object is then dipped back into the glaze for a final coat. If no decoration is to be applied to the pottery, this final glaze is applied immediately upon removal from the kiln.

### Kinds of Pottery:

**Stoneware** is a pottery made from either light or dark clay. It is glazed on the unburned body either before setting in the kiln or by means of salt during the burning process, and is burned to a dense, hard condition.

**Porcelain** is a white, vitrified ware. It is translucent, you can see light through it. In porcelain, the body and glaze are brought to completion and maturity at one and the same burning, which takes place at a very high temperature.

**China** is a ware similar to porcelain, the body and glaze are brought to completion and maturity at one and the same burning at extremely high temperatures.

**Bone China** is a variety of china which burned bone is used as an ingredient, constituting about forty percent of the mass.

**Earthenware** is a white or nearly white body. It is produced by two burnings like china but its body remains porous. The glaze is similar to china's but of a cheaper material.

**Faience** is fine glazed earthenware used for ornamental and decorative purposes. Usually there is no attempt to produce a white body and the glazes are frequently colored.

products of

**pottery**

Dinner sets  
tea sets  
**mugs**  
water pots  
storage jars  
garden pots  
flower pots  
sanitary ware  
roofing tiles  
wall tiles  
table ware  
murals  
sculptures  
jewelry  
etc.

## pottery

### **pure functional pottery**

garden pots, vases, waterpot, storage pots, jugs, mugs ...

### **pottery as an pure art form**

sculpture, mural, toys...

### **designer functional pottery**

mugs, flower pots, lampstand, vases, crockery...

## pottery

### mugs

Mug is one of the commonest product of pottery which is widely used and easily available in the local market.

The mug is usually decorated on the sides. It is the drone of the ceramics world, perhaps the hardest working of vessels and the least appreciated. The mug is usually the most under designed object.

History has not been particularly fair to the mug. While vases, urns and tea pots have been appreciated by poets, painters and musicians. It is a human tendency that we take for granted those objects that are most useful. So we need to examine the mug little more closely and consciously and enhance its other side.

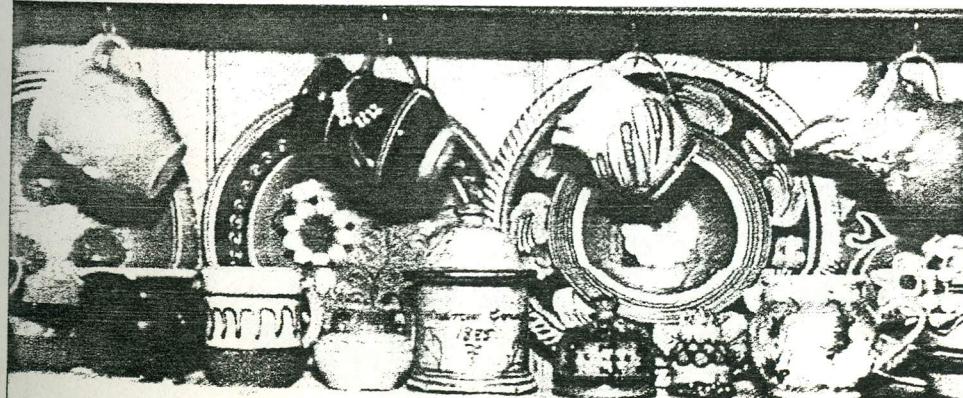
mugs/cups



Saltglazed mug with little carving and thick base.

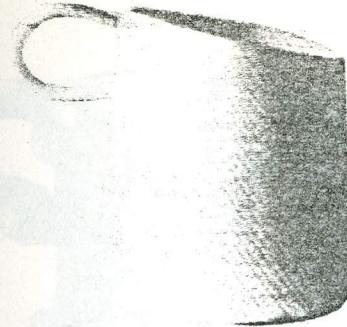


regularly used cup varies slightly in shape and has light decoration in form of lines around of different size and position.

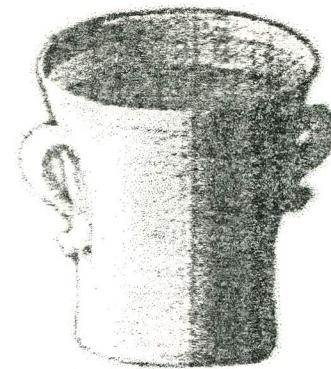


the common way of decorating mugs and cups is by the use of glazes, and generally the decoration is done on the sides of the mugs which are most exposed to eye.

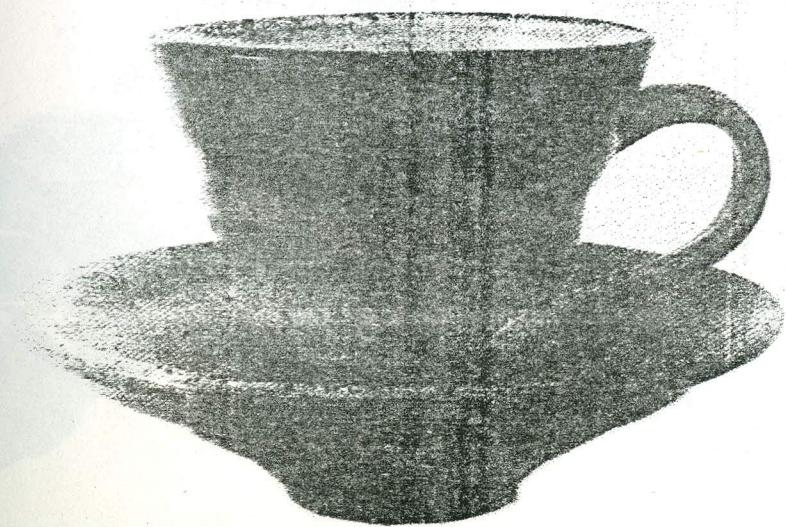
mugs/cups



a simple slope cut on the top side,  
small elongated handle on the edge.

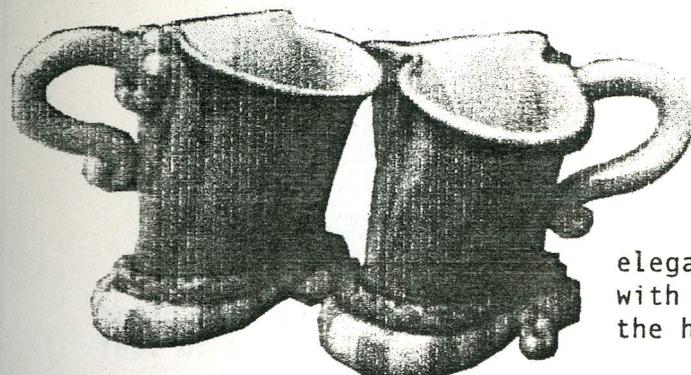


Small delicate handles opp. Each other  
placed slightly towards top. Body tall  
and slightly tapering near bottom

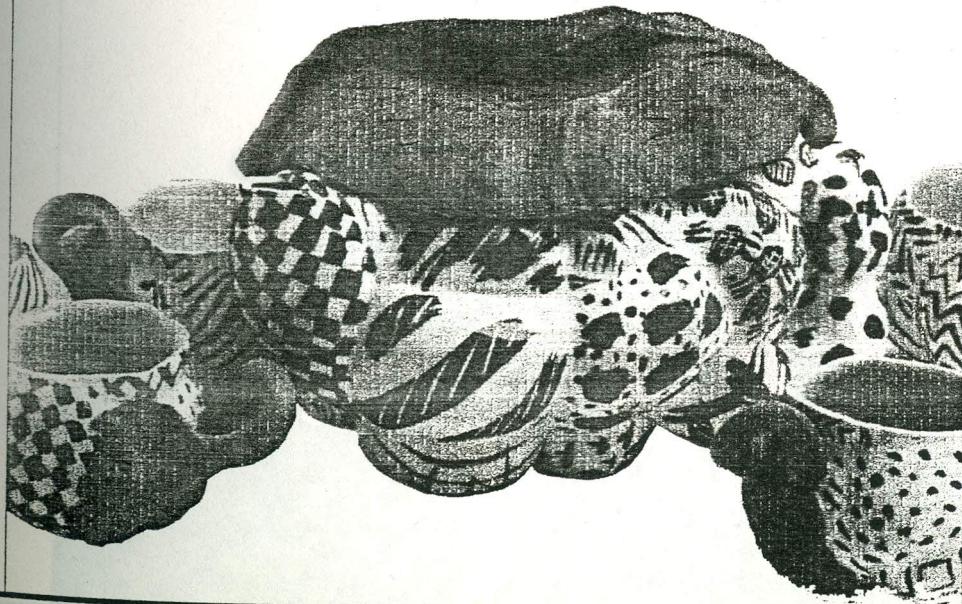


Ordinary type of tea cup  
which get tapered towards  
the bottom but a slight  
twist in the handle and  
the saucers raised above  
the normal height makes  
this cup saucers  
interesting

mugs/cups



elegant mugs (distortion in basic form) with lots of decoration at base and on the handle



Teaset - distortion of shape to a shape of a fruit with handle of a leaf form. Decoration with glazes on the outer surface while the inner surface is plane but of different glaze.

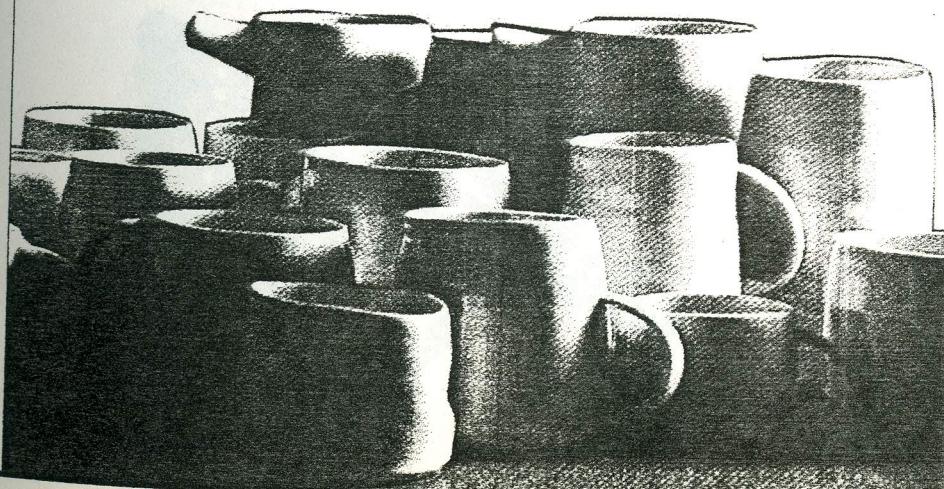
mugs/cups



broad base mug which gives a feel of a jar.



small base mugs with the decoration with one more layer of clay.

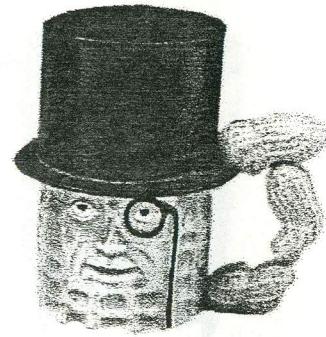


Porcelain cups, mugs, and jars having the similar structure which differs in the placement of the handle from top edge to the bottom edge.

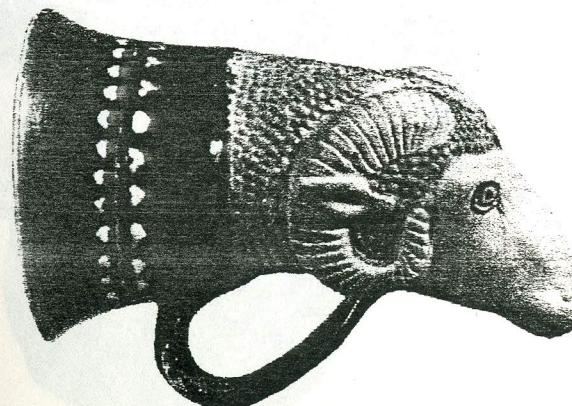
mugs/cups



Purely an art form of a mug based on the concept of a leather bag



Based on the concept of peanuts were the practical use may be very limited.



this is a pure art form of a mug which hardly can be practically used.

mugs/cups

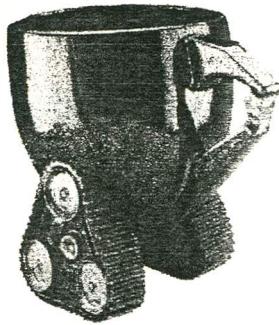


The usual plain surface on the top and bottom here are distorted by cutting the edges.



The work done is in relief which is unusual and interesting.

mugs/cups



The base of this mug has wheels giving a feel of a robot



A object(boot) converted in to a mug



a very interesting thought and nice execution.

decorations  
in pottery

list of observation of mugs available in market, work done by ceramist, and reviews in books..

Locally available mugs are usually in basic forms and use of transfer as the part of decoration

Variations in handles could be found in size, shape, position, and thickness.

Mugs available in art shops and departmental shop has large Variety in design of transfer, glazes, body, and few works in reliefs or variation in shapes while forming.

Some highly decorated mugs are available where the function becomes secondary.

Few are found which are pure form of art ie representation of mugs, which could be hardly used.

**decorations**  
in pottery

types of decoration possible in pottery

glaze painting

with transfers

colored slips

colored clays

stamping with the relief objects

**while forming.**

## mugs

### decoration

Lots of variety of decoration is possible in ceramics mugs. Very widely used is the glazed mugs and decorative design by transfers.

Many varieties of mugs are found were use of stamping, little carving, objects in reliefs and use of colored clay/slip are used.

Less work is done while the formation of a mugs , and few sides of mugs are usually avoided while decoration.

The project - enhancing the other side of pottery - is an attempt to find new possibilities of decoration of mugs. The attempt is to give importance to the side of mugs which are usually avoided.

As said before there are 6 types of decoration possible in pottery- glaze, transfers, colored slips, colored clay, stamping, and while forming. the exploration is done in decorating mugs while forming it which is usually avoided.

decoration  
mugs

While forming

### Possibilities of decorating mugs while forming :

**On the base :** the base is usually very small nearly not visible. The mugs are placed upside down after washing and if kept in a showcase. The lower part ie the base could be one of the interesting part of the part for making it more beautiful.

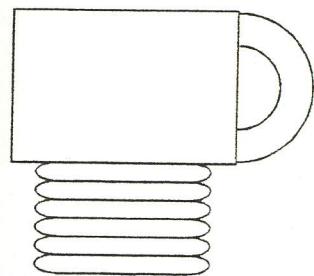
**The top :** the top of the should be smooth as it is used for drinking, but if given a thought could be made interesting.

**The side :** side are the most used part of the mugs for decoration as this is the only part highly visible to the human eye. the decoration done over here is usually with transfers or with glazes.

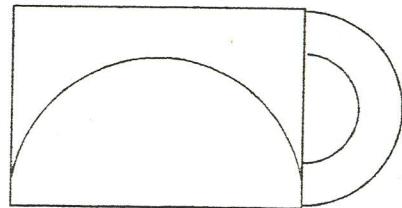
**The handles :** handle is the favorites part of the potter, lots of varieties are found in handle from a very shuttle change to highly decoration.

**The interior :** the interior ie the decoration inside the mugs are hardly found very few attempts have been done in decorating the interior.

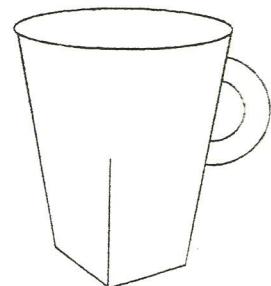
enhancing the other side  
mugs



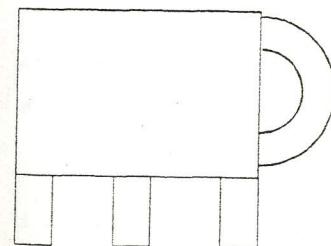
elongated base



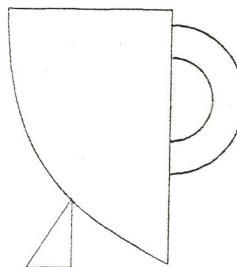
Concave base



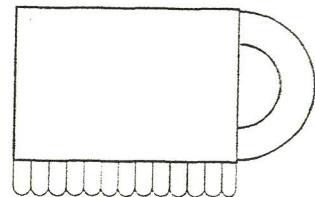
Transformation to  
another shape



Tripod base

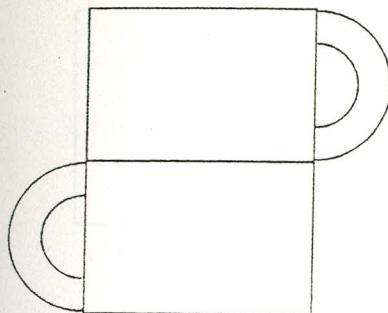


Diagonal base

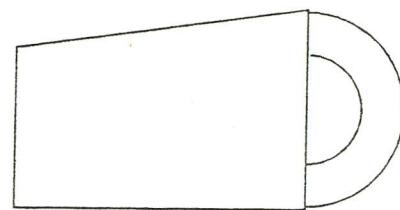


Decorative base

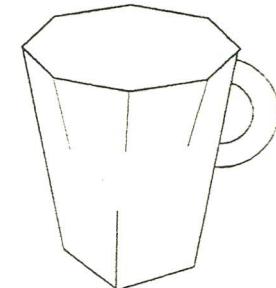
enhancing the other side  
mugs



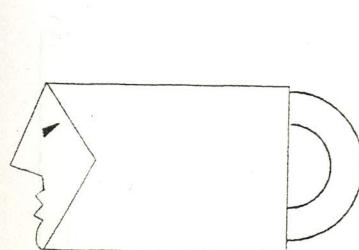
Two face mug



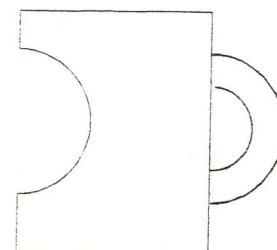
Angular top



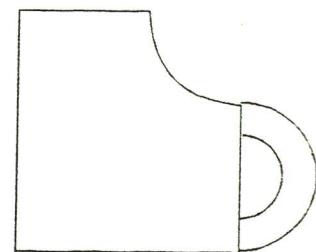
Transformation to  
another shape



Relief on side

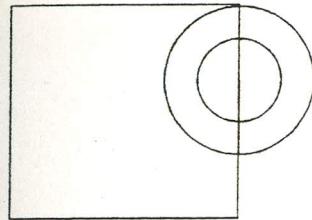


Deep engraving  
on side

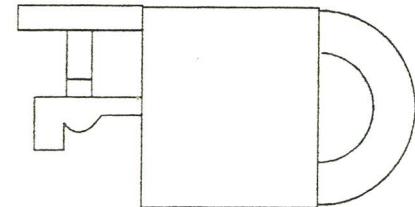


Cut in top

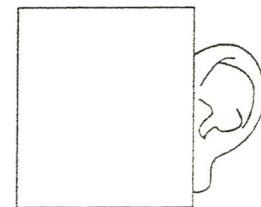
enhancing the other side  
mugs



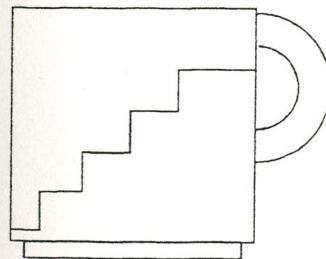
Two sided handle



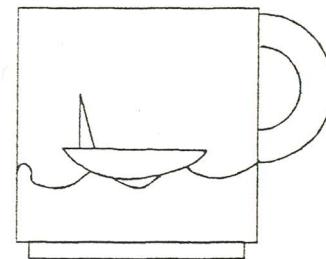
Use of metaphor



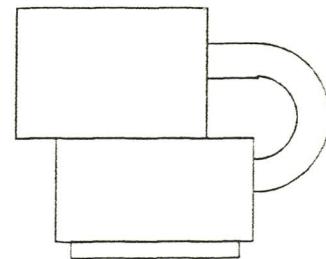
Use of metaphor



Surprise element



Surprise element



Distortion on sides