

# Clay Faces from Photographs

March 14th, 2018

**Margaret** rolled out a slab of clay on her picture before adding eyes & eye-lashes. *Kalei had anticipated the children might add clay features to their laminated face, so her use of a clay foundation surprised me!*



You may have seen the beautiful portraits Katie snapped in conjunction with a project for The Nest Fest. We love these photos so much, we wondered what else we might do with them. So, without an idea yet in mind, Kalei laminated a copy of each child's portrait to have on hand. On this morning she saw many of the children bursting with energy- their hands busy & bodies emotionally reactive. This kind of energy signaled that some of the children might enjoy & benefit from a sensory experience. Kalei brought out clay & the portraits & invited some children to work with clay atop their pictures. They were enthusiastic about claywork but hesitant to take her up on my provocation. Kalei asked **Wren** if she didn't want to, or if she thought she didn't know how- she, & others, answered the latter. She wanted to inspire them to try because she was confident they would find strategies to work through the challenges of the idea. We walked into the piazza to look at the glass case housing the clay heads some Blue Room children created in the studio earlier this year for reference. **Margaret** glanced at the case & immediately darted back to the table proclaiming, "oh, I know how to do it!" Indeed, she went right to work with confidence. Not everyone had the same confidence, but they revisited the challenge with a cool competence. *We are curious to revisit this clay provocation again, & also wondering about offering a copy of their photos for painting...*



**Wren** didn't seem to feel comfortable making her face, but experimented with some of the techniques she might need to employ.



**Lila**, who arrived to the group after **Margaret** set the precedent for a slab base, similarly adds features to her face base. She chose, however, to do her claywork *beside* her photo, rather than atop it.



When **Lila** looked at her finished product she said "Actually, this is my dad. It's not me. He wears glasses too."