Etching Reflection

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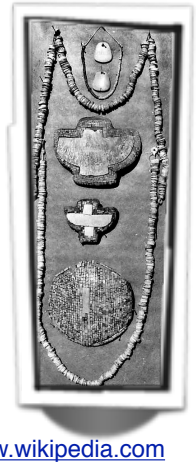
Through the etching projects, we were able to demonstrate the characteristics of acids and bases, and oxidation. In the first project, we etched designs into seashells. When placed into an acetic acid bath, the carbonate reacts to form carbon dioxide and water. We used nail polish as a resist to create a design that wouldn't be stripped away by the acid bath. Etching is a common technique in the artistic community historically and currently. For example, the Hohokam Indian tribe utilized this technique in their jewelry making. One of their pieces can be seen in (a). This project improved my understanding of reactions involving acids, and the corrosive nature of acid itself. My project is displayed in (b).

(a)



www.wikipedia.com

(b)

(c)

www.wikipedia.com

(d)

The second project used a brass disk and iron ions from Ferric chloride to oxidize the brass. Brass is a copper alloy, and the copper ions are eliminated from the disk when exposed to the Ferric chloride bath. This is a second example of etching, and of the chemical process of oxidation.This technique is used in the artistic community, and has been for ages. An example can be seen in (a), a baptismal font from the 12th century. This project helped me to further solidify my understanding of oxidation, through a straightforward process that I could observe visually. My brass disk, engraved with the Greek word 'agape', can be seen in (b). My inspiration was to make a reminder of Christ-like love that I can wear on a daily basis.