

2. Charms:

One essential part of my piece are the charms which I will hang around the large figure's neck. They symbolise some of the ideals and values I think may have informed the decisions of many Brexit supporters. This is highly subjective on at least two levels as a) they represent the values by held by people based on their subjective opinions and b) they are my subjective opinion of why people may have voted that way.



1. rough pieces left to dry a bit



2. Finished and ready to fire

Including the charms references both the popularity of charm bracelets popularised by Queen Victoria and the use of charms in African imagery and religious practices. They are tokens of good luck and beliefs. The wearer believes, if adorned with them, that the charms will bring luck and prosperity. That is obviously highly questionable but can give some sort of false sense of security. On the other hand, if you believe in them, you may will them to become true. Who knows? However, with the figure facing backwards I'm planning to hang the charms also on his back. Thus they also represent values of the past and at the same time they pose a danger of struggling the person wearing and believing in them.

From a point of view of making them, I've decided to use porcelain paperclay. The whiteness of the clay body will allow me to decorate them in bright colours, which will contrast with overall colour of the rest of the piece. I think it is easier to work with that pure porcelain, which will dry out faster and has less plasticity, thus paperclay will hold its shape better. It is however really difficult to make such tiny items. The fibre in the clay can get in the way of really fine detailing. As I'm not sure whether I can decorate both sides with colours, currently I'm thinking of using underglazes, I have added a pattern to one side and the other can be painted.

