



IF THESE BRICKS COULD SPEAK..

What would they say about Harvard? What would they say about you?

The red bricks that make up Harvard's built environment have witnessed centuries of personal and public history, from individual transformation to societal upheaval. Some of the events that take place in our shared halls enter public consciousness and settle into the historical record; others live on only in private memory.

We invite you to personalize the brick before you in whatever way you wish—with text, numbers, designs, etc.—making visible the experiences, ideas, or events/moments that have animated the space(s) you inhabit and have defined what Harvard means to you. You could equally take this as an invitation to express your own identity, symbolizing your presence and the mark you have made—or the legacy you hope to leave—on Harvard.

This could be as simple as writing your name or initials—the most straightforward expressions of your individual identity. It might equally be some variation of a fingerprint or handprint, visually attesting to the force of your presence. It could also be a snippet of text or a design that reflects your interests, values, memories—you decide how intelligible you want it to be to viewers!

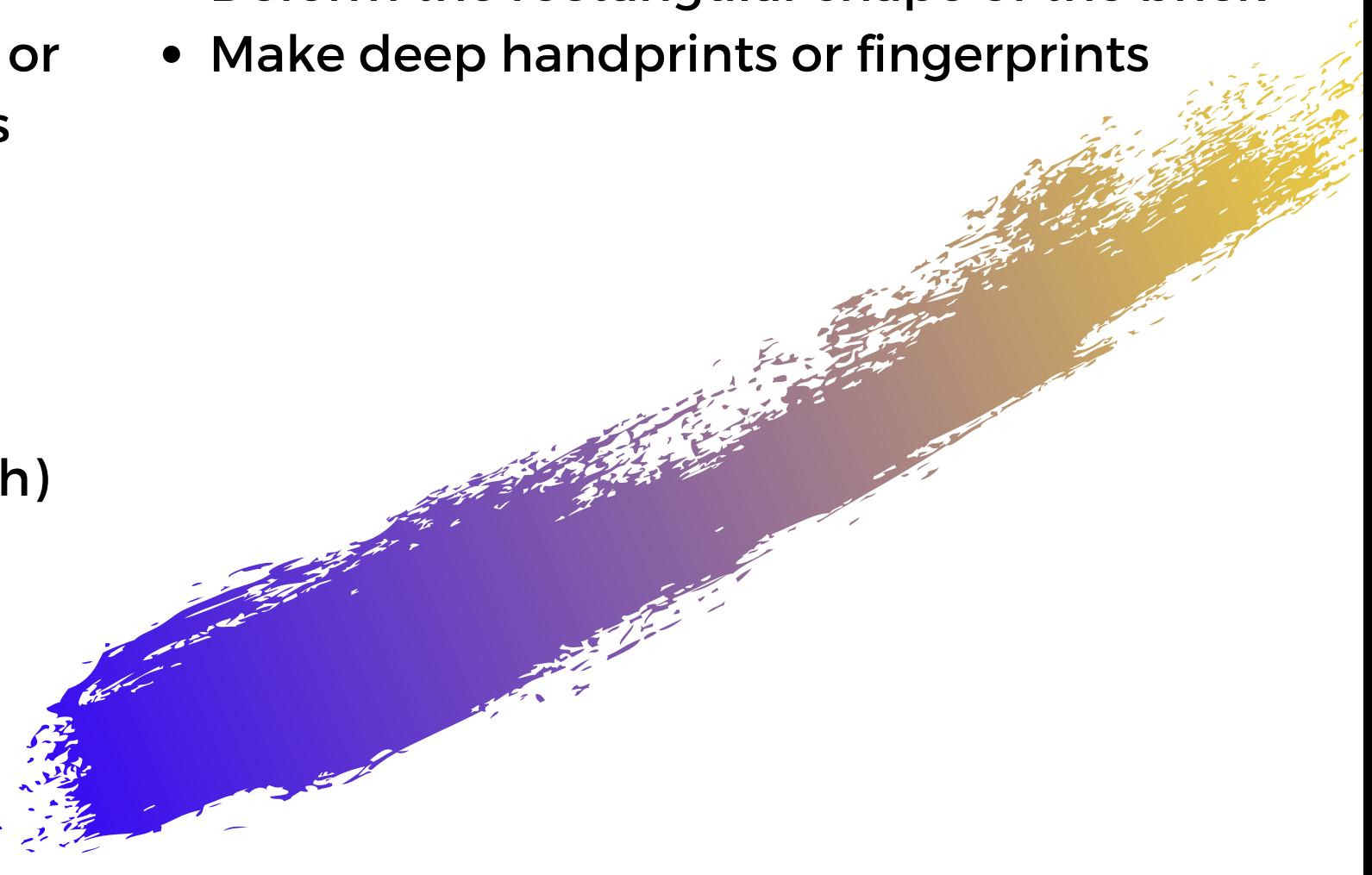
If helpful, you may consider the following questions as starting points:

- How should we remember Harvard? What should we remember about Harvard?
- How do you want Harvard to remember you?
- How has Harvard shaped you? How have you shaped Harvard?
- What do you want to preserve from this moment in time?

DO

- Use your fingers or any of the provided carving tools/stamps
- Use your own found materials as stencils/carving tools, or objects you've brought to make impressions (as long as you check with the student supervisor first)
- Light fingerprints
- Write your name somewhere (only if you want to - anonymity is your choice)
- Be respectful of the community (no slurs or hate speech)

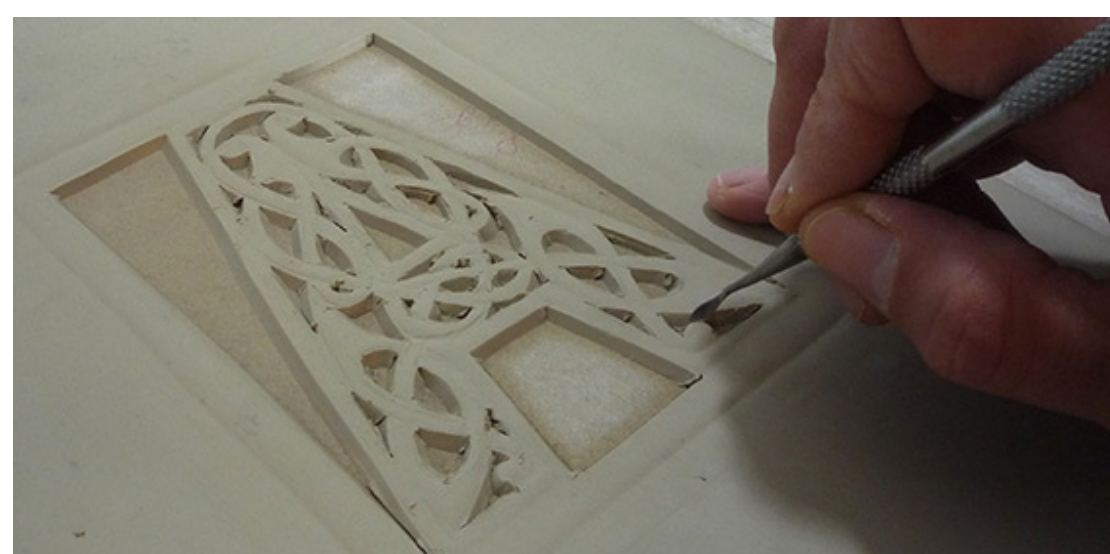
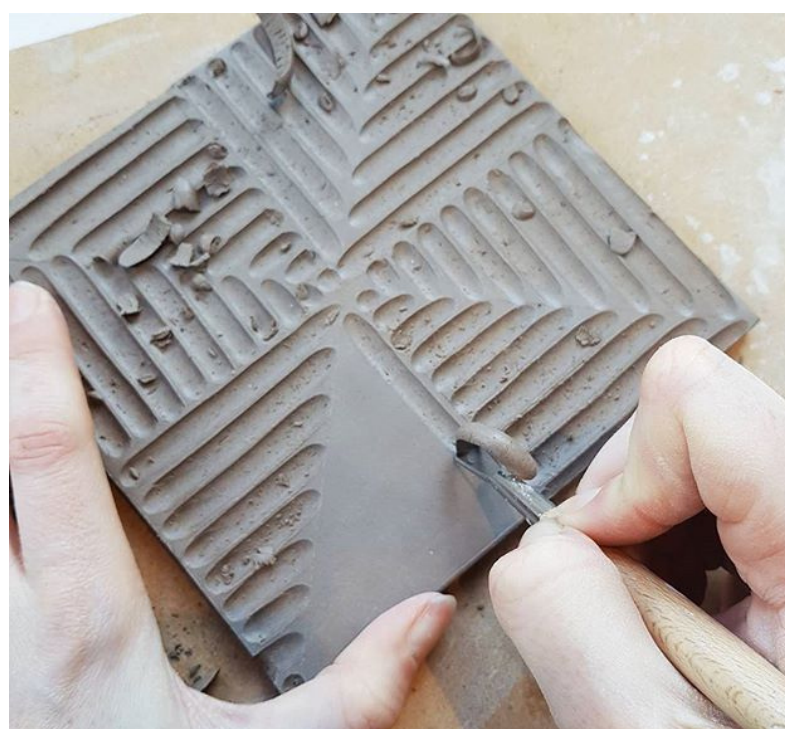
DON'T

- Poke holes through the brick
 - Deform the rectangular shape of the brick
 - Make deep handprints or fingerprints
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EXAMPLES

Some general examples of what you could carve into your brick:

- Your name or initials (and/or those of people at Harvard who impacted you)
- A quote, phrase, or question
- Song lyrics
- A confession
- A drawing of a space on campus (i.e. the Lowell tower, Weeks bridge, a blueprint of your dorm room, etc.)
- Your favorite dining hall food and/or the name of a dining hall staff member you are grateful for
- A significant statistic, date or other piece of historical information about Harvard



You can also look to these specific examples that students have provided for inspiration:

- "I would write 'BOTH AND' in big block letters (I first heard this phrase in a Harvard class that introduced me to the framework of intersectionality and I've carried it with me throughout my academic career). Inside the block letters, I'd draw symbols representing the various identities I simultaneously hold (i.e. the female gender symbol, a Canadian maple leaf, the Quincy shield)"
- "I'm thinking of carving the question 'Are you okay?' or 'Call your mom' into my brick because if these walls could talk, I'd want them to check in on us and remind us of what's important"
- "I'd write the names of the people in my blocking group, and the question 'does this spark joy?' because it's a simple but meaningful question that I use to approach how I spend my time on campus"
- "I'd carve 'Otium,' a Latin abstract noun that reflects the scholarly leisure that I try to build into my schedule"
- "I want to write '\$5.6 MILLION - the total amount of Harvard's disclosed endowment invested in fossil fuels before 2021'