

Worksheet for Richard Piran McClary's "Mina'i"
by Sascha Crasnow
(to be used with [video linked here](#))



Key Takeaways:

1. What does the term *mina'i* refer to? When and where were *mina'i* produced? Where does the term come from?
2. What terms did *mina'i* supplant? Why were these terms used, and why were they replaced?
3. On what objects do you find the majority of *mina'i*? What do they typically depict?
4. As Dr. McClary notes, the majority of *mina'i* objects were unearthed in fragments. How did the seemingly "complete" objects seen in museums, galleries, and at auctions come to be? What is the term used for the fragments of *mina'i*?

5. How was the *mina'i* technically produced?
6. Why were the *mina'i* widely traded? To where does archeological evidence demonstrate the *mina'i* were shipped and traded?

Considering Conservation

1. As Dr. McClary notes, the *mina'i* objects in museums are restored sherds that include 20th-century repairs and overpainting to present seemingly completed objects. What are the benefits to observing these objects in such a pristine shape? What are the potential drawbacks? Select an object that was either repaired/restored or fragmented. How does its state influence your understanding of the work? How might it have been different if it had not been in the condition in which you viewed it?