



# a natural state

**Artist: Leslie Pierce**

**Video 2: Process, Part A: Prepping**

Pierce: You see, this is when I get it from Mrs. Braswell. This is exactly what they look like with all of the junk all over it--just the same way that she picked it up off of the farm. Lots of...lots of dirt on it, but that doesn't bother me because then I can just kind of look at them and figure out what I'm going to make out of it.

And this is a gourd that's already been cleaned pretty good in the kitchen. And the more you work with gourds, the more you know what's the skin and what's just junk. Like, I know that's all junk, and I can just take this and sand it. After I sand the whole thing and get it pretty clean, I'll take it back in the kitchen and wash it off real quick. But I use, like, a Baby Wipe or something just to see what the, the color's going to look like because they all have different colors. Some are more yellow and....Oh, that's better. Yeah. So it'll be...that's what it'll look like when you actually spray it with the clear acrylic.

And if there're little things that don't come off—and, and most of all of this is going to come off, except for this I know is, like, a mildew that's inside the, the skin of the gourd that's not going to go anywhere no matter what. If that bothers me, which it doesn't, like in...this one has it but I thought it kind of looked like the skin of a fish a little bit. It kind of gave the skins...the fish skin...texture. It doesn't matter. But you would design your...design for the gourd around any kind of these kind of mistakes on the piece.

*End.*