

Ceramics

Fast 'n' Fun

Purpose:

- Practice using basic painting techniques
- Practice neatness and following directions
- Learn terms related to ceramics
- Demonstrate that ceramics is fun
- Encourage creativity

Supplies:

- Ceramic pieces (one per participant --figurines, plates, vases, etc.)
- Paint
- Brushes
- Water and cups
- Paint shirt or apron
- Dish cloth or sponge for clean up

Definitions:

- Sponge - a silk or natural sponge
Glaze Brush - used to apply glaze and underglazes
Stiff Bristle Brush - used for design, full coverage of textured areas, lettering, stippling and dry brushing
Translucent Brush – for application of oil-based translucent, dry brushing oil-based colors and for chalks
Detail Brush - used to paint features (eyes, eye brows, etc.) or very fine lines
Earthenware - white lowfire clay body
Stoneware - high fired and chip resistant clay body
Porcelain - high fired and very chip resistant body
Opaque Stain – water-base stain that you are unable to see through
Antiquing – method of applying color then wiping down to simulate antique ware
Pearl – a pearl-like finish either opaque or translucent with an iridescent sheen
Lustres – decorating medium which produces an iridescent sheen when applied over opaque colors or to bisque ware
Non-fired Glazes – a medium which simulates a gloss glaze and does not require a sealer
Dry Brush – used to apply opaque or translucent color

Activity:

1. Have a few sample ceramic pieces already painted to pass around. Youth can assemble their work space with all supplies needed. Use newspaper or a drop cloth to protect work surfaces. Have one cup of water for each participant for cleaning brushes.
2. Demonstrate different brush strokes and the types and sizes of brushes to use. What are the different paints? For unfired finishes you can use a variety of paints. What are the differences between the clay bodies (also referred to as bisque)? (See definitions)
3. Remember when working with unfired finishes as described in this lesson they are for decorative pieces only and should not be used for food or beverage service or storage.
4. Discuss color selection that is appropriate for the project. What is the object that you are painting? Do you need to use what would be considered normal or traditional colors for a ladybug for example? What about using non-traditional colors, but in a pleasing palette?
5. Help youth look at their projects and evaluate how they did and what could be done differently. No brush marks should be visible. Does the stain detail work (color) enhance the basic design? Are color combinations pleasing and appropriate? Are colors under antiquing bright and clear?

Extra Activity:

If time allows, have the youth paint a second project and give as a gift.



Ceramics activity for grades 3 - 8. Allow 1-2 hours. Visual Arts Standard - Tools, Techniques, Materials & Processes

Colorado State University Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development