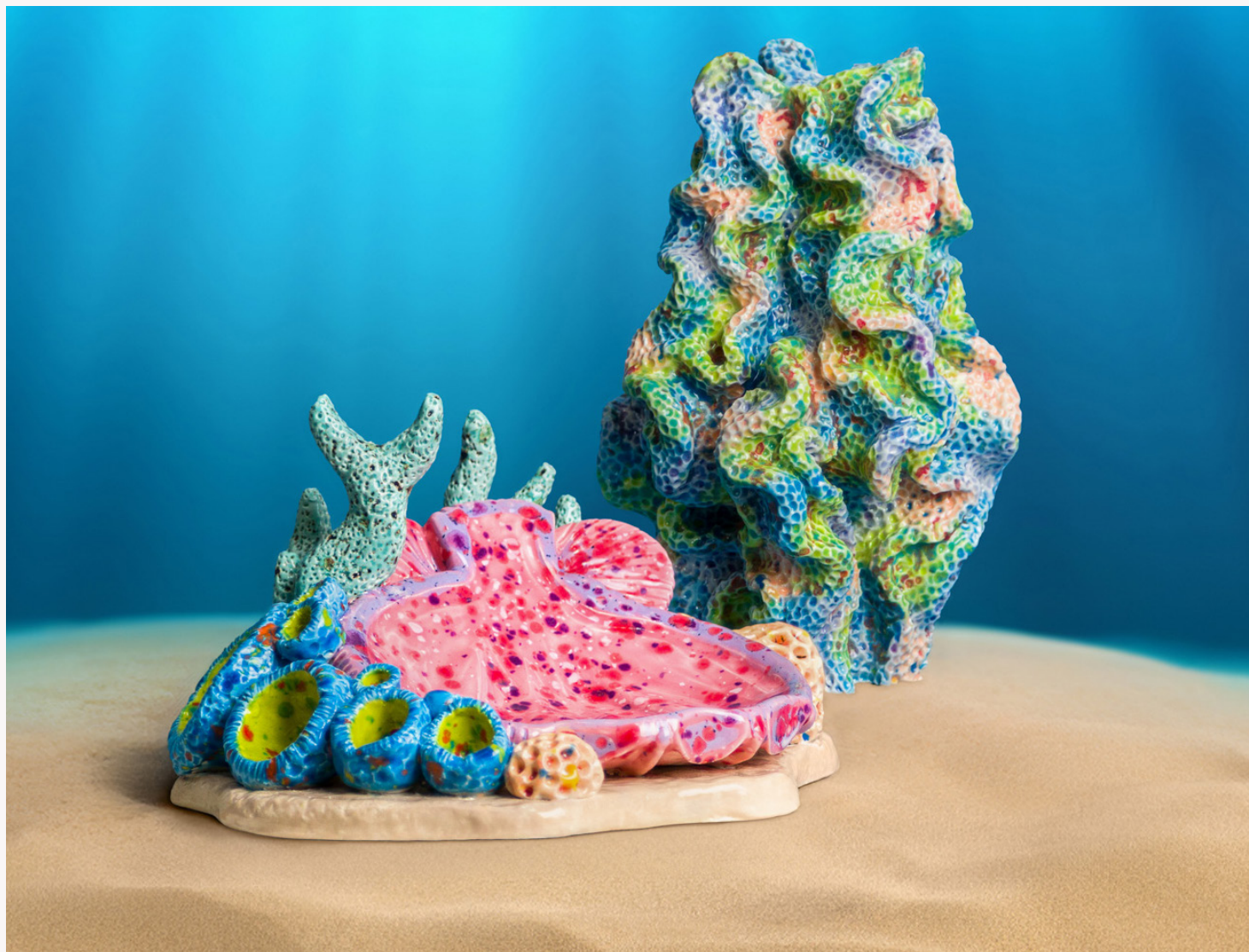


PYOP CLAY PROJECT PLAN

CORAL REEFS: EXPLORE HIDDEN DEPTHS LIKE ARTIST COURTNEY MATTISON

Designer: Sally Meixner and Bailie Benson



Use clay and simple tools to create miniature reefs. This is an excellent project to explore texture, color, and imagination in designing coral and other sea life.

SUPPLY LIST

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Assorted glaze brushes
- Needle tool
- Wooden modeling tool
- Clay cutter
- Various carving tools
- AC219 Writer Bottle or squeeze bottle with tip

COLORS BY MAYCO

- CG1003 Peach Party
- CG1006 Purple Reign
- CG1007 Blueberry Bubblegum
- CG1009 Cherry Limeade
- CG1002 Day Lily
- CG1004 Berry Tart
- CG1005 Maroon Lagoon
- CG1008 Blue Guppy

CLAY

- 5 lbs of claybody of choice

MISCELLANEOUS

- Sponge
- Rib
- Rolling pin
- Toothpick
- Pencil
- Empty bowl to form shell
- Palette



DIRECTIONS - CLAY BUILDING PROCESS

Method 1 - Low Fire

1. Roll out a slab of clay for the base and compress both sides with a rib or plastic card.



2. Cut a random shape from the slab to use as the base and create sand texture by poking the bristles of a stiff brush into the clay. Stack and attach offcuts to give the slab base some dimension.



3. Roll out a smaller slab and manipulate into a shell shaped shallow bowl. Roll and flatten two small balls of clay and attach flattened balls of clay to the top of the shell bowl. Roll out five coils about the diameter of a pointer finger and length of 6" and cut in half. Attach halves of coils to the back of the shell shape and smooth. Cut off excess coil length. Drape the shell over the empty bowl to create more depth.



DIRECTIONS - CLAY BUILDING PROCESS CONTINUED

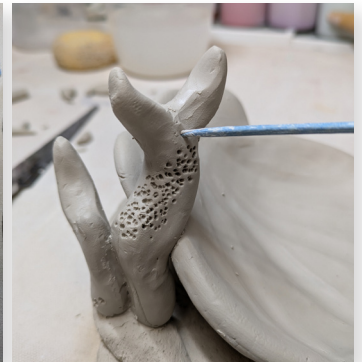
4. Gently roll up the pieces of cut coil into a ball to mimic the look of brain coral. Use the brain coil corals to help prop up the shell bowl onto the base.



5. Scratch and attach the coral balls, shell, and base all together.
6. Use the back end of a tool to add some rounded detail to the shell edges. Use a fingertip to smooth the inside of the shell bowl.



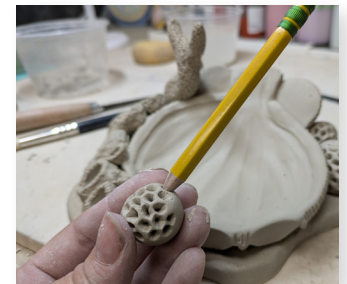
7. Roll out thick coil bits and attach them to create tall coral pieces. Score and slip the base. Create texture by poking a toothpick end all over the coral.



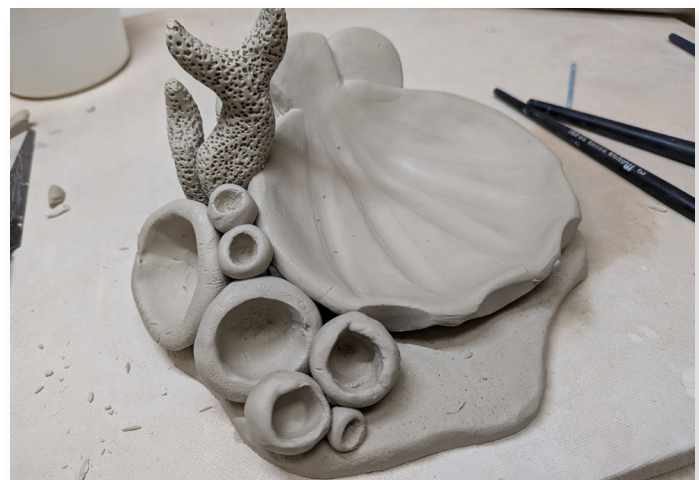
8. Create small pinch pots in various sizes for the cup coral. Use the back end of a pencil or tool to help create the small cups and texturize the lip of the cups with toothpick cuts and indents on the sides with the back of a brush.



9. Create ball coral by rolling a variety of small balls of clay and use a sharpened pencil tip and poke to create deep divots. Score, slip, and attach to the base of the shell.



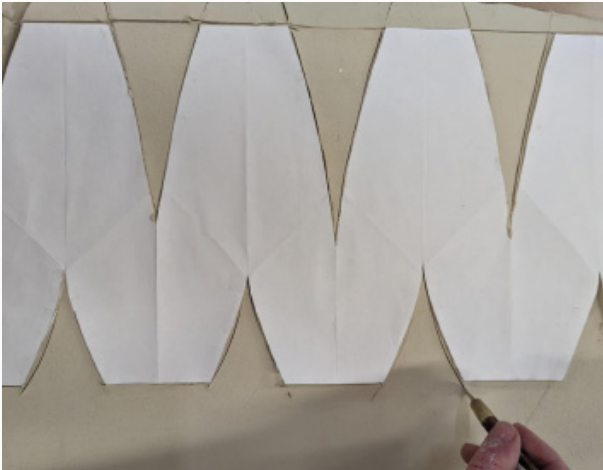
10. Allow clay to fully dry and bisque fire to cone 04.



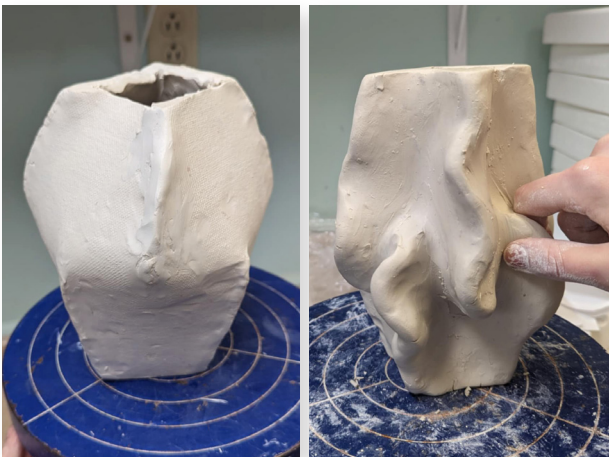
DIRECTIONS - CLAY BUILDING PROCESS CONTINUED

Method 2 - Midrange

1. Create a paper "W" template and cut it from a compressed ¼" slab. Assemble the form by slipping and scoring along beveled edges. Weld seams.



2. With a damp sponge, gently push the seams outward. Pinch and manipulate the protruding seams into undulating waves.



3. Roll coils and pinch them against the table surface to create flat edges. Score along flat edges and attach. Weld seams.



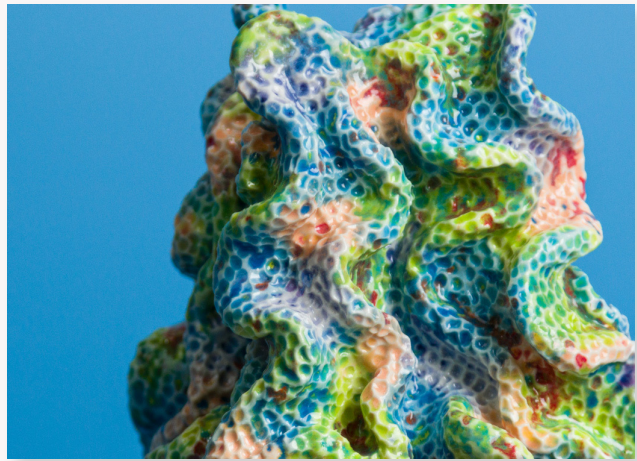
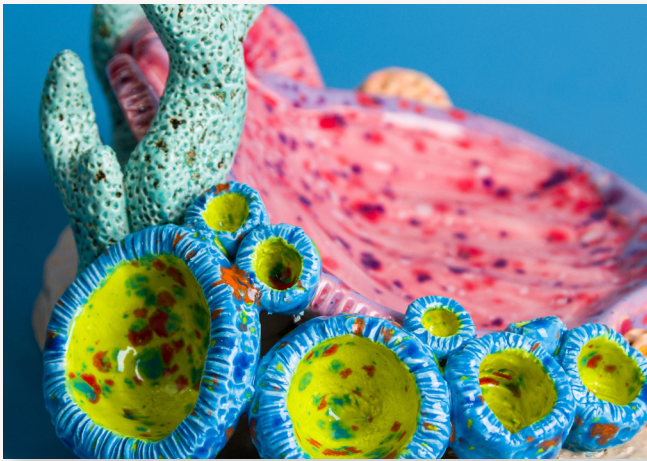
4. Set the piece on top of a slab to mark the floor. Cut the floor shape and attach it using the slip and score method. Compress the underside with a rib to prevent cracking and weld the seam upward.



5. Smooth and compress the surface. In crevasses where a damp sponge won't fit, use a brush. Stipple a dimpled texture into the clay using the back of a brush. When covering a large surface area, it may be more comfortable to tape sponges to the handle for an easier grip.
6. Allow to dry thoroughly and fire to cone 04.



DIRECTIONS - DECORATING PROCESS



This lesson plan features Mayco's [Jungle Gems™ Crystal Glazes](#). Jungle Gems™ are a great way to add color and depth to pieces. Though a traditionally low-fire glaze, Jungle Gems™ in fact have a wide firing range, spanning from cone 06-10.

Method 1:



1. Use soft glaze brushes to apply Jungle Gem colors to each area of the clay creation. Jungle Gems contain frit crystals that melt during firing and give bursts of color. In areas where you want solid color like sand, Stroke & Coat is a great option. Many Jungle Gem and Stroke & Coat colors have wide firing ranges from cone 04 to cone 10. Check labels for any color changes at higher temperatures
2. Stilt and fire to cone 06.

TIPS:

- For more advanced students, encourage the use of photo references and challenge them to get as close to the realistic textures as possible using found objects.
- For younger students, encourage organic shapes and found object textures. Using Playdough extruders may create easy coral shape options.

DIRECTIONS - DECORATING PROCESS CONTINUED

Method 2:



1. Select a handful of Jungle Gem crystal glazes and loosely apply them in patches until the surface is covered, allowing the patches to overlap. Wipe the underside and bottom ¼" clean, and fire to cone 6 unstilted.

TIPS:

- A deep texture is helpful in controlling the flow of glaze.
- Patches of glaze should be more thickly applied towards the top of the piece where there is room to melt and flow. Use lighter application towards the bottom and brush away crystal chunks from the lowest ¾".
- Jungle Gems will produce additional movement at higher temperatures (cone 6), and colors may change slightly compared to low-fire (cone 06).

MEET THE MASTER



Courtney Mattison

Internationally recognized artist and ocean advocate Courtney Mattison crafts intricate and large-scale ceramic sculptural works that visualize climate change through the fragile beauty of marine life. Her background in ocean

conservation science and policy has a great influence on her art. In 2020, the United Nations Postal Administration published Mattison's work on a stamp to commemorate Earth Day.

"I want to bring the beauty of coral reefs above the ocean's surface and make people fall in love." — Courtney Mattison

