

PYOP CLAY PROJECT PLAN

THE FANCIFUL FELINES OF LAUREL BURCH

Designers: Sally Meixner and Bailie Benson



Design and handbuild colorful cats in the style of artist Laurel Burch, an artist known for her fantastical cat paintings that feature repetitive patterns and bright colors. Fun fact: You might think she owned many cats, but she never did! Her love for fantastic felines and their unique personalities provided endless inspiration and joyful, whimsical artwork.

SUPPLY LIST

CLAY

- 3 lbs of clay body of choice

MISCELLANEOUS

- Toothpick
- Dowel rods (24") of graduating thickness (1/4", 1/2", and 1")
- Sponge
- Pencil
- Water based marker

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Assorted round brushes
- Script liner
- Detail liner
- Clay cutter
- Various carving tools
- [AC219 Writer Bottle](#) or squeeze bottle with tip

COLORS BY MAYCO

Stroke & Coat® Kit 1 (SC-KIT1)



DIRECTIONS - CLAY BUILDING PROCESS



1. Create a cylindrical vessel with the Broomstick Method using a set of dowel rods with graduating thicknesses. Wedge 2 pounds of clay and slap it into a rough cylinder shape about the size of a soda can. Skewer the center of the cylinder with the smallest dowel. To establish a straight channel through the clay, it may be easier to poke through both sides and meet in the middle.



2. Holding both sides of the dowel, roll the clay like a rolling pin. As the hole widens, swap the dowel rod for a thicker one and continue rolling. Repeat this step until a cylinder with $\frac{1}{4}$ " walls have taken shape.



3. Augment the cylinder using gentle pressure with a damp sponge, pressing in from the outside and pressing out from the inside to close the top. When satisfied with the shape, set the piece on top of a slab to mark the floor. Cut the floor shape and attach it to the augmented cylinder using the slip and score method. Compress the underside with a rib to prevent cracking and weld the seam upwards. Cut an optional hole in the top.



DIRECTIONS - CLAY BUILDING PROCESS CONTINUED



4. After cutting cat ears from the top of the cylinder, carve the cat pattern using a carving tool or dull pencil. Clay carving is best done in the leather-hard stage. Allow clay scraps to dry and sweep away with a fan brush.
5. Allow to dry thoroughly and fire to cone 04.



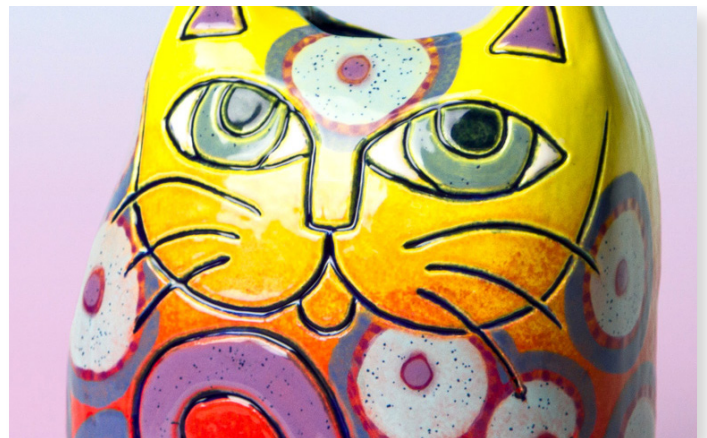
DIRECTIONS - DECORATING PROCESS



This project features Mayco Colors [Stroke and Coat®](#), which have a firing range from cone 06-10, can be applied to clay or bisque, and is AP Non-Toxic.

In this project, we feature the intermixability of Stroke and Coat® to create custom colors.

Method 1:



1. Mix transition colors by adding darker glaze to a lighter glaze.
2. Stir colors with a round brush.

TIP:

When fired to low-fire temperatures, Stroke & Coat® does not move or blend into existing colors. Use this feature to apply side-by-side or layer colors without losing the integrity of the design.

DIRECTIONS - DECORATING PROCESS CONTINUED

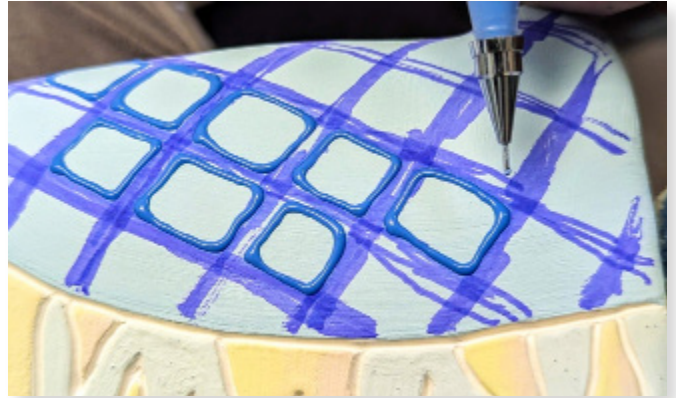
Method 2:



1. Create transition colors directly on the piece. Fill two writer bottles with two glazes and apply them side by side. While still wet, blend the glazes where they meet using a brush.



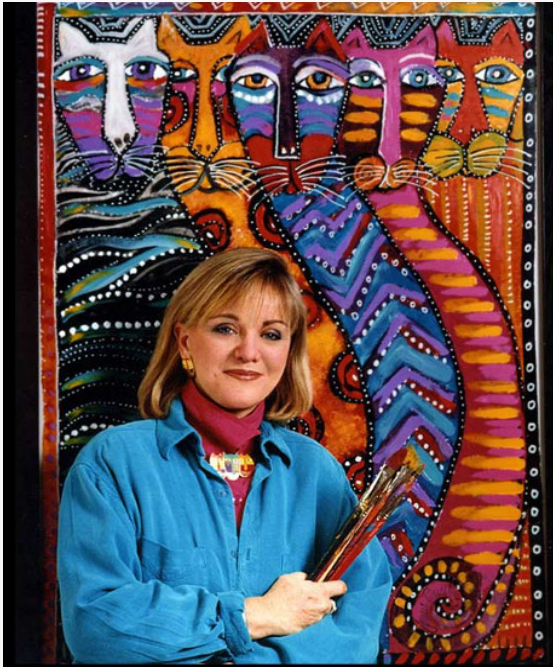
2. Create patterns with a marker to guide application. When fired to midrange temperatures, Stroke & Coat will blur if colors are layered or overlapped. Use this feature to create diffused patterns.
3. Allow to dry and fire to appropriate temperature for clay body used.



TIPS:

- Use a writer bottle with color to apply color to carved grooves.
- Apply color of choice to interior if a hole was cut in the top.
- Use a brush handle to other tools to add dots to your design.

MEET THE MASTER



Laurel Burch

1945 - 2007

The vibrant personality and love for creating bold art are evident in the work of Laurel Burch. Not only was she an accomplished jewelry designer and painter, but she also excelled in business. Having dealt with many physical hardships in her life, the art that she shared with the world helped give her strength and purpose.

"My strength and direction,
passion and purpose came
through creating and giving . . .

What Bliss!" - Laurel Burch

