

PYOP CLAY PROJECT PLAN

LAYERS OF THE EARTH: CRAFTING A MINDFUL CERAMIC VESSEL

Designers: Sally Meixner and Bailie Benson



Create one-of-a-kind ceramic vessels that feature textures, layers, and designs inspired by nature. Using found objects to create texture and design adds a fun element to this project.

SUPPLY LIST

CLAY

- Clay body of choice

BRUSHES AND TOOLS

- Clay tools (wire cutter, sculpting tools, wooden ribs, sponges)
- Canvas sheets
- Rolling pins and guide sticks or a slab roller
- Texturing tools or found object (leaves, fabric, stamps, bark)
- Slip containers and scoring tools

GLAZES

- UG-46 Bright Yellow
- UG-204 Orange
- UG-206 Fire Engine Red
- UG-208 Dragon Red
- UG-68 Apple Green
- UG-21 Leaf Green
- UG-31 Chocolate
- SW004 Zinc-Free Clear



LOW FIRE DIRECTIONS

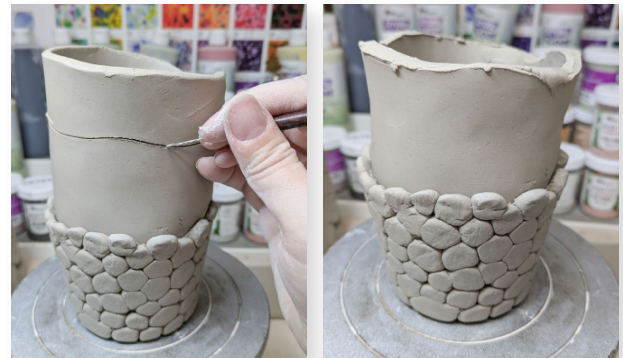
1. Begin by lining the plastic bowl with plastic wrap. Using 1/3 of the clay, roll small balls of clay and line the bottom and sides of the bowl with the clay balls. Compress and smooth the balls of clay together. Carefully remove the clay lining the bowl and set aside to let the clay set up.



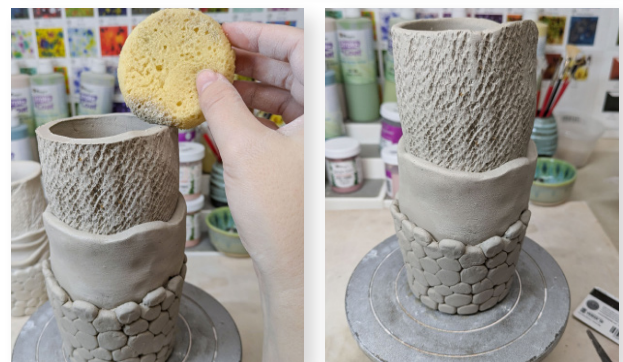
2. Roll out 1/3 of the clay into a long slab. Compress the clay slab with a plastic card or rib. Wrap the slab on the inside of the pebble bowl, with the pebbles overlapping the slab about 1/4 inch. Scratch and attach the ends of the slab together,



and where the edge of the slab meets the pebble bowl. If the slab is too tall, take the needle tool or toothpick and cut a wavy top off of the slab. Smooth cut edge with a damp sponge. Smooth out the inside of the vessel with a finger.



3. Roll out the last 1/3 into a long slab. Compress slab with plastic card or rib. Roll the seed stem of the broadleaf plantain over the slab to leave behind the seed texture. Wrap the slab the same way as step 2, leaving about 1/4 inch of overlap from the previous slab section. Scratch and attach with the toothpick or needle tool. Smooth the layers together on the inside. Slightly squeeze around the top slab to collar in the clay and give the vessel more shape.



LOW FIRE DIRECTIONS

4. Carve details (like leaves) into the textured slab section. Roll out a few thin coils long enough to wrap around the center slab a few times. Scratch and attach the coils to the center slab. Smooth down the bottom of the coils into the slab. Allow vessel to dry and bisque fire to cone 04.



5. Using the fan brush, apply two coats of UG208 Dragon Red to the pebble section of the vessel. Wipe back the color on the surface with a damp sponge, allowing the dark red to stay in the deep crevasses.



6. Using the fan brush, lightly apply two coats of UG206 to the top of the wiped off pebble areas, taking care to avoid filling in the areas that have the UG 208 color.



7. In the middle slab section, apply three coats of UG046 Bright yellow with a fan brush to the whole section. Using a sponge, apply a sponged coat of UG204 Orange to the bottom 2/3 of the

slab. The coils will stop the glaze from hitting certain areas when sponged straight up and down. Sponge a layer of UG068 Apple Green to the top 1/3 of the slab.



8. Using the fan brush, apply three coats of UG068 Apple Green to the entirety of the top slab. Using the script liner brush, carefully apply two coats of UG 021 Leaf green to the leaves (or carved out shapes) being careful not to get color down into the recessed areas. Apply three coats of UG021 Leaf Green to the inside of the vessel.



9. Apply two coats of S2101 Crystal Clear Brushing Glaze to the raised sections of the pebble layer, being careful not to puddle into the recessed areas. Using the script liner brush, apply two layers of clear over the coils and carved leaf sections of the second and third layers of the vessel. Apply two coats of clear to the inside of the vessel. Allow to dry and fire to cone 06.



MID-RANGE DIRECTIONS

1. Sketch the silhouette of the intended form onto a piece of cardboard and cut it out to create a guide for coil building.



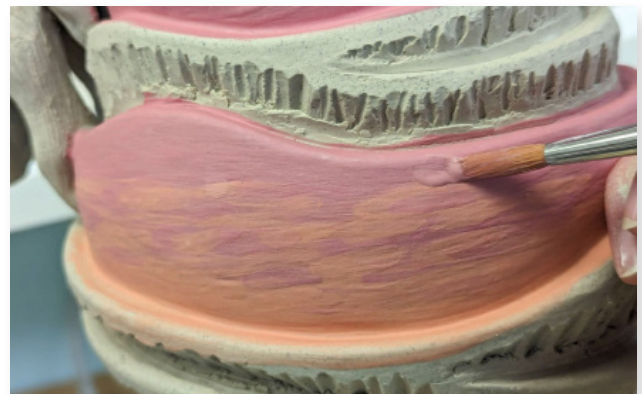
2. Roll or extrude coils of clay about 1 1/4" in diameter and build a coil pot by slipping and scoring stacks of coils onto a compressed slab. Firmly compress the surface with a rib. Cutting a cardboard silhouette of the intended form and periodically holding it to the pot may be helpful in guiding construction.



3. Mark and carve the design with a loop tool. Allow the pot to become leatherhard and use a wooden modeling tool to create texture.



4. Apply underglaze to the leatherhard pot, blending colors together for seamless transitions. Fundamentals Underglaze is fully intermixable.



MID-RANGE DIRECTIONS

5. Instead of freehanding a sgraffito design, draw it on paper and trace it onto a piece of scrap plastic (cling wrap will be too thin). Hold the plastic to the pot and trace the shape again with a dull pencil to leave a subtle impression on the pot's surface.



6. Carve the marked impressions with a needle tool. Resist the urge to clean the clay shavings from the edges of carved lines! Wait until they have dried and sweep the crust away with a stiff bristled brush.



7. Complete the sgraffito design by using a smaller carving tool to carve the negative space from the pattern. Allow the piece to fully dry and bisque fire to cone 04.



8. Apply a thick coat of underglaze to bisqued surface and wipe it away with a damp sponge to enhance texture. Add 2-3 coats of SW004 Zinc-Free clear glaze to any areas intended to be glossy, and glaze fire to cone 6.



MEET THE MASTER



Jena Bedson

Jena Bedson is a ceramic artist whose work includes totems, intricate wall art, and layered clay planters. These are inspired by the ancient lands of Wurundjeri country in Warburton, Australia. Her creativity flows freely as she seeks to craft work that gives inspires meaning to the viewer.



“My art is an extension of the earth’s quiet wisdom, a way to honor the sacredness of our surroundings. I believe that in creating with intention, we invite stillness and reflection into our lives—and that’s the true soul of art.” – Jena Bedson