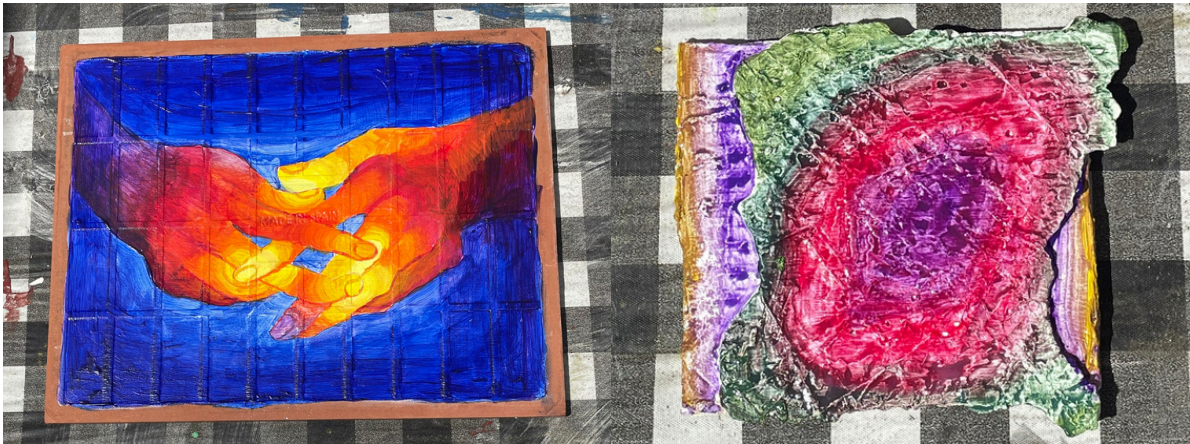


ACRYLIC PAINTING ON FOUND CERAMIC

INTRODUCTION

In this project, we will upcycle ceramics into unique painting surfaces. In addition to reducing waste, this project presents a sustainable way to make art.



Acrylic paintings on discarded ceramic tiles found for free on craigslist. Courtesy of Blue Reinhard.

MATERIALS

- Ceramic object
- Acrylic paint
- Pencil
- Paint brush
- Cup of water
- Gesso
- Masking tape
- Transfer paper
- Any acrylic-based gloss
- Sketch paper

VOCABULARY

Ceramic: made from clay and hardened through heat using a process called “firing” in a special oven called a “kiln.”

Ceramic Glaze: a liquid substance that gives ceramics a shiny, glassy coating.

Unglazed Ceramics: ceramics that have not been coated with ceramic glaze.

Primer: a substance that prepares a surface to be painted by creating a base coat.

Painting Surface: Any material that you apply paint onto.

*Take a photo of your ceramic painting and send it to
ffleming@oxy.edu or tag us @oxyarts*

SOURCING YOUR CERAMIC OBJECT

Secondhand **ceramic** objects can be found for free or for affordable prices through online services such as Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, and OfferUp. They can also be found at thrift stores and yard sales. You could even use an object you already own that you've been meaning to get rid of. Examples of ceramic objects include: kitchen or backyard tiles, plates, teapots, sculptures, and pieces from broken ceramics.

You'll need to find an object that is entirely **unglazed**, or one that has a significant unglazed section. There needs to be an unglazed area because the paint won't stick to a glazed surface. Since glaze makes clay shiny and glassy, you can tell the clay hasn't been glazed yet if it still has its natural grey/brown/terracotta color, as well as a rough texture. If you pour water onto the object, it should absorb into the surface.

PRIMING, SKETCHING & PAINTING

- 1** Apply gesso to your unglazed painting surface. Gesso is a primer that works well for acrylic painting. Apply a thin coat of gesso, and once it's dry, apply a second coat.
- 2** Trace your object on a piece of sketch paper so that your drawing will be the right size. While the gesso is drying, start sketching ideas for what you'll be painting within the area you traced.
- 3** When you are finished drawing, tape the transfer paper to your ceramic object, with the dark side of the tracing paper facing down. Then, place your drawing on top of the tracing paper, with the drawing side facing up. Tape it to secure it in place.
- 4** Using a pencil, trace over your drawing while applying a good amount of pressure. When you peel back the sketch and tracing papers, you should see your drawing transferred onto the ceramic. We use this method because it can be difficult to draw directly onto the ceramic.
- 5** Use acrylic paint to make your painting!
- 6** When your painting is finished and dry, apply a layer of acrylic-based gloss to the surface. This will make it nice and shiny!