Picasso Fish

Pablo Picasso is famous for being one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. He started Cubism, invented collage, and created many works of art with different mediums. He considered himself to be a painter first, but was also known for his drawings, printmaking, and sculptures. In 1964, Picasso visited Vallauris, France, and became fascinated with the ceramic works of the Madoura studio there. He partnered with the owners and began producing his own ceramics. Picasso’s ceramics were decorated with images of bull fighting, birds, goats, faces, and mythological creatures. He continued to make clay pieces through the last years of his life. Though Pablo Picasso died in 1973 in the South of France, his legacy will live on forever.
Instructions

Materials List

Low Fire White Clay

Duncan® Bisq-Stain® Opaque Acrylics
- OS434 Lemon Peel
- OS488 Christmas Green
- OS468 Deep Turquoise
- OS541 Northern Blue
- OS489 Saddle Brown
- OS431 White

Brushes & Tools
- BR 585 No. 6 Round Brush
- TL 420 Palette Knife

Duncan® Spray Sealer
- SS340 Gloss, SS341 Satin, OR SS342 Matte

Miscellaneous Supplies
- Stencils (See Last Page)
- Scissors
- Sponge
- Needle Tool or Wooden Skewer
- Scoring Tool or Plastic Fork
- Craft Foam

Tips for Success

1) After the projects have been completed, while the clay is laying on a flat surface, cover the reliefs with a sheet of craft foam and lay something flat and lightweight on top. Let them dry 1-2 days. Uneven drying of your clay can cause tension, which increases your chances of warping and cracking.

2) Check to see if the clay is leather hard. If the greenware is still extremely soft, cover it again and let it dry for one more day. If it is leather hard, remove the weights and foam sheets and move to a wire rack or drying shelf where air can flow around the top and the bottom of the clay. Let the clay dry for another 5-7 days or until it is dry enough to fire without breaking in the kiln.

For Best Results

Please read all instructions before beginning project. Refer to photo for color & design placement.

1. Cut out your paper stencils for the round base, fish, and lemon.

2. Roll your slabs to a ¼” thickness. Smooth out your clay while compressing it to reduce warping during the drying process.

3. Cut around the circle stencil with a needle tool or wooden skewer. Set aside any excess clay.
4 Using the excess clay from Step 3 and/or another slab, cut around your fish, lemon stencils, and two small eyes.

5 Score the two areas of the two pieces to be joined with a scoring tool or plastic fork.

6 Wet the two surfaces and press them together. Smooth them with a slightly damp sponge or your finger tip until completely joined.

7 Move the completed reliefs to a flat surface and allow to dry for 1-2 days. Then move to a wire rack or drying shelf to continue to dry completely for approximately 5-7 days.

8 The clay needs to be completely dry before firing. You can test the dryness of the clay by touching the clay to your face. If it is cold and not light in color, it is still wet and will explode in the kiln when fired. When the greenware is ready, bisque fire to cone 04.
9 Acrylic Instructions: Wipe a damp sponge over the entire relief to remove dust and contaminants. Paint 1 coat of Lemon Peel on the lemon slice. To get a light green, mix one part Christmas Green, one part Lemon Peel, and one part White then apply color to one of the fish. Apply Northern Blue to the second fish. Paint the eye of each fish Saddle Brown. With the liner brush, add White details. Feel free to create your own unique patterns and details. Lastly, paint 1 coat of Deep Turquoise around the lemon, fish, and edge of the relief. Let dry.

10 Spray 2-3 coats of Spray Sealer (your choice of Gloss, Satin, or Matte) over the front of the relief. Let dry completely.

The relevant National Visual Arts Standards were considered in the design of this lesson plan.