



LESSON PLAN #37



amaco.com (800) 374-1600 Teacher Support 8am-5pm EST M-F



SGRAFFITO WITH CLAY AND UNDERGLAZES

BY AMACO

History/Background: Sgraffito is a very traditional way of decorating ceramics. It has been used for centuries on both decorative and functional wares. In combination with the AMACO® Velvet Underglazes, students have the ability to create colorful and unique works of art.

Sgraffito: Creating design by applying layers of color and cutting or scratching through a top color to reveal the color beneath. This technique has been used in ceramics, painting and architectural motifs, especially during the Renaissance.

This project is suitable for all grades.

National Visual Art Standards Addressed:

1. Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and culture.
2. Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes.
3. Using knowledge of structures and functions.
4. Choosing a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas.
5. Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics of artwork.
6. Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines.

Materials & Tools

- Ceramic Clay, preferably AMACO® 77-M
- AMACO® Velvet Underglazes
- AMACO® Texture Molds (optional)
- AMACO® Modeling Tool Kit #11108R with 12 assorted hardwood tools
- Water
- Paint Brushes
- Sponges



TECHNIQUE:

CREATIVE MASKS BY INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS OR AS GROUP PROJECT:

Each student can complete the full Sgraffito process; or each worktable group can rotate masks to accomplish each step in the process. Artistic inspiration can be loosened up in this group process, but it also requires trust in the group. Ideally in the group method, the last step is completed by the student who originated/created the mask shape.

Note: Plan to allow different amounts of time for each step.

1. Each student will create the shape of the mask (a mask must have eyes and a mouth).
2. The next student adds AMACO® Velvet Underglazes in color bands across or down the mask to cover 50% of the clay.
3. The next student sgraffitos/draws into the clay with a sharp edged wooden tool in order to scratch off clay for a design or pattern or illustration.
4. The next student removes parts of clay with a wooden tool.
5. The next student adds parts of clay for depth and dimension, which can include texture created by molds or plates.
6. The next student brushes on different color(s) of AMACO® Velvet Underglazes on top of existing color(s).
7. The next student creates eyes.
8. The next student again sgraffitos (scratches color to reveal color beneath).
9. Back to the original artist. (At a worktable for 4, the student who originated the mask should now have it in his or her hands for the third and final time). Final changes/additions can be made.

NOTE: Can add more of the same steps to accommodate more students or accomplish more rotations.

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