UNIT 3
OVERGLAZE

Requirements:

(Refer to requirements Unit 1-4 on page 2)

Basic Information:

Overglazes:

(1) Are usually applied over a glaze.
(2) May also be applied over polished Porcelain bisque.
(3) Are mostly used for decorative purposes. Most overglazes, fuse to, but do not become part of the glaze. For that reason, they are mainly used for decorative rather than utility items. **Check with the manufacturer for food safe information.**

Types of the most common overglazes:

(1) Lustres:
   (a) Gold
   (b) Platinum
   (c) Copper
   (d) Mother of Pearl

(2) Decals
(3) Enamel
(4) China paste
(5) China paint

It is very important to read all labels for recommended application and firing instructions.

*Have your project leader, parent and/or ceramic studio help you choose your greenware and overglazes. They will be able to assist you in your choices and guide you.*

Keep accurate notes as you proceed.

Evaluate each of your projects using the guide for judging on page 8.
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PROJECT 1

Basic Information:

(1) You will be learning how to apply a decal and Mother of Pearl.
(2) Most decal designs are made with China paint and/or enamels on a film. The film fires away and the design fuse onto the glaze.
(3) If using decals and Mother of Pearl on the same piece, always apply and fire the decal first. Decals require a hotter firing than the Mother of Pearl.
(4) Repeating members and seniors may create an original design using a variety of different patterns and sizes when using decals.
(5) This project will be considered as one of your required pieces. Learning projects are usually not entered in competition.
(6) You may be using some of the tools from Unit 1 and Unit 2.
(7) Other tools and brushes you may need to purchase:
   (a) Squeegee for applying decals.
(8) You will learn more new ceramic terms from your leader.

Steps:

(A) Select suitable greenware (tile or any smooth surface piece).
(B) Prepare work area with suitable covering.
(C) Follow the safety rules. Refer to page 3.
(D) Clean greenware as outlined on page 4. Initial and date the bottom of the piece.
(E) Have your greenware fired to the proper cone size.
(F) Keep accurate notes as you proceed.

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(G) Prepare work area.
(H) After cleaning the kiln dust from the piece, apply gloss glaze of your choice, with your glaze brush.
(I) Clean your brush with soap and water. Rinse and reshape the brush.
(J) Fire your piece to the proper cone size.

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(K) Prepare work area.
(L) Clean the tile to be decorated, and the work tile, with denatured alcohol.
(M) Place the decal in water until decal curls up tightly. The water should be room temperature or luke warm.
(N) Remove the decal from the water and place on the cleaned work tile until
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the decal unfurls.

(O) With the backing paper still in place, position the decal face up on the piece.
Holding the decal in position with your thumb, gently slip out the backing paper.

(P) If you are having a problem, removing the backing paper, ask your leader for helpful suggestions.

(Q) Slide the squeegee over the backing paper to remove some of the adhesive. This will let the squeegee slide across the decal without tearing it. Work out all of the water and air bubbles, working from the center out, in all directions.

(R) Clean the squeegee with soap and water, rinse and let it dry.

(S) Allow decal to dry twelve hours before firing. Read decal packaging for proper firing cone.

(T) Check the stilt marks and remove as needed.

(U) Complete your E-record and expense supplement sheets.

(V) Evaluate your project using the Unit 3 guideline for judging on page 8.

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Steps for Mother of Pearl:

(A) Wash the new brush with soap and water, at home, so it has time to dry before the next workshop. Label your brush “Mother of Pearl”.

(B) Prepare work area.

(C) Clean the glazed project piece, the work tile, and the camel hair round brush with the denatured alcohol and let dry.

(D) Wear rubber gloves or use paper towel while placing the piece on a turntable.

(E) Load the round camel hair brush with Mother of Pearl, clean one side of the brush on the side of the bottle, to remove excess. The brush should not be loaded to the metal ferrule.

(F) With a light touch, swirl the Mother of Pearl in a small circular motion. Turn the turntable as you work. Reload your brush when needed. Do not over-work the brush stokes. Let the piece dry twelve hours before firing to proper cone (follow manufactures instruction). Be sure to use paper towels or wear gloves when moving the dry Mother of Pearl piece. Ask your leader to give you more information if needed.

(G) Clean your brush in clean essence, then alcohol and finally with soap and water. Store this brush, alone, away from your other brushes.

**********

(H) Check the stilt marks and remove as needed.

(I) Complete your E-record.

(J) Evaluate your project using the Unit 3 guideline for judging on page 8.

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PROJECT 2
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OVERGLAZE

Basic Information:

(1) You will be learning how to apply Mother of Pearl.
(2) If using decals and Mother of Pearl on the same piece, always apply and fire the decal first. Decals require a hotter firing than the Mother of Pearl.
(3) This project will be considered as one of your required pieces. Learning projects are usually not entered in competition.
(4) You may be using some of the tools from Unit 1 and Unit 2.
(5) Other tools and brushes you may need to purchase:
   a. Turntable to aid you when you are applying lustres
   b. Deerfoot Stipler brush designed to be used with Mother of Pearl. If not available, camel hair round brushes may be used.

Steps:

(A) Select suitable greenware.
(B) Prepare work area with suitable covering.
(C) Follow the safety rules. (Refer to page 3)
(D) Clean the greenware as outlined on page 4. Initial and date the bottom of the piece.
(E) Have your greenware fired to the proper cone size.
(F) Keep accurate notes as you proceed.

**********

(G) Prepare work area.
(H) After cleaning the kiln dust from the piece, apply gloss glaze or glazes of your choice depending on your piece, with your glaze brush.
(I) Clean your brush with soap and water. Rinse and reshape the brush.
(J) Fire the piece to the proper cone size.

**********

(K) Wash the new brush with soap and water, at home, so it has time to dry before the next workshop. Label your brush “Mother of Pearl”.
(L) Prepare work area.
(M) Wear rubber gloves or using paper towels when working with your piece.
(N) Clean the glazed piece, the work tile, and the deerfoot stipler or the camel hair round brush with denatured alcohol and let dry.
(O) Wearing rubber gloves or using paper towels place the piece on a turntable.
(P) Load the deerfoot stipler or camel hair brush with Mother of Pearl. Clean one side of the brush on the side of the bottle, to remove excess. The brush should not be loaded to the metal ferrule.
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(Q) With a light touch, swirl the Mother of Pearl in a small circular motion. Turn the turntable as you work. Reload your brush when needed. **Do not over-work the brush strokes.** Let the piece dry twelve hours before firing to proper cone (follow manufacture’s instruction). Be sure to use paper towels or wear gloves when moving the dry Mother of Pearl Piece. Ask your leader to give you more information if needed.

(R) Clean your brush in clean essence, then with denatured alcohol and finally with soap and water. Store this brush, alone, away from your other brushes.

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(S) Check the stilt marks and remove as needed.
(T) Complete your E-record project and expense supplement sheets.
(U) Evaluate your project using the Unit 2 guideline for judging on page 8.

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PROJECT 3

Basic Information:

(1) **Fabulous!!** You have completed projects 1 and 2.
(2) You are ready to create your project 3 which may be your exhibit piece.
(3) The skills learned, in this unit:
   (a) Decal application.
   (b) Application of Mother of Pearl.
(4) You may use one of these skills by themselves or in combination. If you are having a hard time deciding, ask your parent, leader, or local ceramic studio for advice.

Suggestions:

(1) Before choosing your piece, and if you have the opportunity, go to several ceramic studios to see what is available.
(2) You may want to change your piece by alternating the design of the greenware (Greenware adaptation).
(3) Refer to ceramic publications and websites for technique ideas. Check references on page 70.
(4) You might want to obtain information from your local library.
(5) Be sure to stay within your unit medium (Overglaze).
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Steps:

(A) Follow the cleaning steps as outlined on page 4.
(B) Decide on the technique you wish to achieve.
(C) Complete Ceramics e-Record. Include Learning Projects on the specific information page:
   1. Proper application of decals. 2. Proper application of Mother of Pearl.
(D) Evaluate your piece using the Unit 3 guideline for judging on page 8. Ask your leader for help.

CERAMIC CHECK LIST:

Identify the following tools and brushes:
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What I learned about the care of my ceramic brushes:

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

What I learned in this unit:

________________________________________________________________________________________

Good for you!! By completing 3 or more projects, exhibiting E-records and one project you have completed this year’s Unit.

CERAMIC KNOWLEDGE AND GOALS CHECKLIST:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Altering the greenware pattern for a special effect.</th>
<th>New skills I have learned.</th>
<th>Skills I want to learn or improve.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Making my own design using several decals.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining several overglazes.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Application of Enamels.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Application of China Paste.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Application of China Paint.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application of an Overglaze not listed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Overglaze:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Put the date when you learned the skills. Place a check mark in the column of skills you would like to learn. Discuss skills you would like to learn with your leader. She/he will be able to give you hints as how to achieve your goal.
Check the glossary for more information on each of the skills.