

Ruth Easterbrook Q&A Transcript

11/19/25

Question! I've heard of sanding bisque ware - why do you choose the metal rib?

live answered

Sorry missed cone for bisque

Ruth bisque fires to cone 06.

Kaitlynne Flanigan

I wet sponge everything before bisque firing. Would I need to do this as well?

yep, always a good idea to wet sponge before glazing.

Jennifer Harnetty

Hi! Do you know if there is a european equivalent to the Brookly Red Clay? It is unavailable in Italy and all the red clays that I found change the colors of the glazes, especially the whites. Thank you!!

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Sorry I missed the glaze recipes. Could you reshare them?

They can be found at the end of the resources document, here:

<https://ceramicartsnetwork.org/docs/default-source/webinar-resources/workshop-from-home-ruth-easterbrook-111925.pdf>

Kaitlynne Flanigan

Hello, What is the specific gravity of that glaze?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Is that a toilet brush you're using to stir?

yes! they work great!

Jennifer Harnetty

What kind of brush are you using to apply the underglaze?

Ruth uses Bamboo brushes: <https://tinyurl.com/bdmsk76v>

Kaitlynne Flanigan

What brushes does she prefer to use?

Ruth uses Bamboo brushes: <https://tinyurl.com/bdmsk76v>

Kaitlynne Flanigan

How do you recommend practicing brushstrokes?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Where can i get those brushes/

Brushes used: <https://tinyurl.com/bdmsk76v>

Kaitlynne Flanigan

i dont make my own glazes. Can you reccomend a store bought white that i can use?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

How many layers of unglaze do you apply?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Have you had pin holes as a result of glazing before?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Does the technique work on top of a black or dark glazed/

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Does the pot have to be damp for this to work? Can you glaze and come back later when the glaze is 100 percent dry and apply the underglaze then?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

How do you correct the fingerprint marks on the foot of the pot?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

can you paint additional colors to resemble watercolor painting?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Magic paper is also a great way to practice brush strokes

Great suggestion!

Ash Neukamm

Will you be sending the links you're putting in chat out as a follow up or should we try to grab all those now?

Yes, these links will be available after the webinar.

Kaitlynne Flanigan

What tools do you recomend to carve through the glaze?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

When you paint underglaze over glaze, does it behave the same as if you paint it under the glaze in terms of running? Does it run over glaze.

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Can you explain how much pressure to use during this carving process?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

So will the underglaze on top of your shiny? glaze have a shiny or satin effect once fired?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Will the surface of the underglaze be the same as the glaze its applied on top of?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

is that your base glaze you use on your work? with a stain addition?

The base glaze she used here is the Vintage White and then the color applied over the top is Royal Blue Velvet underglaze by Amaco.

Kaitlynne Flanigan

When I use underglazes, I usually use more than 1 coat. When do you use more than one coat?

I would use more than one coat if you're painting on greenware or bisqueware. I would not do more than one coat if painting it over glaze.

Ash Neukamm

What kind of tool do you use to carve into underglaze?

live answered

Kaitlynne Flanigan

Ruth, have you used earthenware/low fire glazes at all with this technique?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Any particular blushes you recommend?

Blushes or brushes? Double checking. Thank you. If brushes, here is where those can be found: <https://tinyurl.com/bdmsk76v>

Kaitlynne Flanigan

The clear should be matte if fixing heavy hand?

live answered

Kaitlynne Flanigan

hi. how long after sponging the bisqueware should you wait to start glazing?

if you don't add a lot of water (i.e. your sponge is really squeezed out) you don't need to wait very long at all. If you wipe off a 5-6 pots, the first one should be ready by the time you have wiped the last one.

Jennifer Harnetty

Is it food safe if there is a pinhole?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Is it safe to use the Ayumi Aqua on functional ware because of strontium carb.?

live answered

Kaitlynne Flanigan

I have noticed that sometimes the underglazed areas pieces with clear glaze over top have an acne like texture. Why would this happen? Too thick underglazing? thanks

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

where do you purchase the thin tape

You can find the thinner tape various places, but here is some on Amazon:

<https://tinyurl.com/ym79b57s>

Kaitlynne Flanigan

Is there a reason to use painter's tape vs. vinyl tape?

live answered

Ash Neukamm

Do you generally not have the base glaze on the bottom of the pot?

live answered

Kaitlynne Flanigan

will you dip the white glazed pot with the underglaze in a clear coat?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Does she recommend using wax on the foot to avoid finger marks?

you definitely could do that. I think Ruth just prefers not waxing.

Jennifer Harnetty

Do you then dip in gloss clear, or does the underglaze take on the glossiness of the vintage white?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

My prior chat message wasn't that clear. After a piece is done, underglazed and clear glazed, I notice the underglaze area has a bubbly acne-like texture.

live answered

Kaitlynne Flanigan

I thought tulip!

Definitely could be a flower too.

Kaitlynne Flanigan

For resists on bisqueware, have you used liquid latex? If so, how have you found the application & results compared to painter's tape?

live answered

Kaitlynne Flanigan

The butterfly could also be used as a bow!! Just add streamers

Oh, definitely!

Kaitlynne Flanigan

If you did the design on the inside, would you use a clear coat to keep it food safe?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Back to the ice cream cone - so if the plate is dipped the cone and ice cream are 'negatives' - then you remove the cone tape but how to apply glaze to the 'cone' area without covering the original background glaze? This always confuses me.

If you wanted the full plate to be white and cone to be a tan color, then a brown “chocolate” scoop, and a pink “strawberry” scoop on top, you would dip the plate in the white glaze. Then remove the cone sticker and paint/brush on the tan cone glaze. Then remove the bottom scoop sticker and paint/brush on the brown glaze. Finally, remove the last sticker (or top scoop) and paint the pink glaze.

Ash Neukamm

My Speedball Unglaze is super thick and I have a hard time painting with it. Do you add anything to your unglaze to thin it out?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

How did you get the bisque wear 3D the leaves flowers?

Ruth mentioned she did water etching. That technique is often done on greenware. You apply wax resist and in a pattern, then wipe away the clay body with a damp sponge.

Ash Neukamm

What type of brush do apply latex with and how to

cleanup of the brush

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

some potters swear that you should glaze interior glazes first and wait at least several hours or overnight and then glaze the outside. what do you think?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Do you ever use wax for resist in layering and if not, is there a reason why. I was thinking about it but not sure of the downsides (besides not being able to peel and continue working on that area).

can you please share that name again please?

It is Liz Quackenbush: <https://www.lizquackenbushclay.com/>

Kaitlynne Flanigan

haha obviously ignore that last question - what timing!

Will Amado green wax work ? I can get it

Yes, she has used this green wax as well.

Kaitlynne Flanigan

I've been told wax over glaze can blow off in kiln and ruin other work. My pots are fired in a community kiln. Is this a concern with your method.

live answered

Kaitlynne Flanigan

Why scrape vs wipe away this glaze at the inner lip?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Why not use a sponge rather than scraping?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

what glaze are you dipping it into now?

She was dipping into the Vintage White again.

Kaitlynne Flanigan

what glaze are you dipping it into now?

She does use for her backgrounds though Silky Matte (Hansens G1214Z).

Kaitlynne Flanigan

Why use glaze to clean away glaze from design? Water makes more sense

Do you mean over the tape? Just hoping to clarify.

Kaitlynn Flanigan

Do you need to wait for the glaze to dry fully before applying the wax on top? Thank you!

live answered

Kaitlynn Flanigan

can you brush your glaze rather than dip?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

which glaze is the black glaze and is that a mason stain or black iron oxide or something else?

It is Silky Matte (Hansens G1214Z) on the handout and she adds Mason stains to this base glaze.

Kaitlynn Flanigan

Was that black Ruth dipped cup into a glaze or a slip? And is that one listed on the PDF recipes?

It was the Silky Matte (Hansens G1214Z), but with Mason stains added.

Kaitlynn Flanigan

Could you please repeat the reason for the wax around the border of the sticker over the background glaze?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Are you familiar with Mayco wax?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Was it intentional to put the wax over the tape before the glaze was fully dry?

could you please repeat why you brushed extra glaze around the blue tape design before you waxed it? thank you

She was actually taking a brush and brushing the glaze off of the tape to make them more visible when having to find them to peel them off. You don't want to forget a piece of tape and then fire your piece.

Kaitlynn Flanigan

Would the clear glaze go over the entire cup, or do you try to only paint over the butterfly?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

(also, do you mind resharing the name of the rubber latex that she recommends?)

It was Amaco Liquid Latex. <https://www.dickblick.com/products/amaco-rubber-latex/>

Kaitlynn Flanigan

I love your glaze stirrers. I am in the UK and they look like toilet brushes. How wonderful if they are - such a good use for an easily available product.

It actually is a toilet brush. They can be great for mixing.

Kaitlynn Flanigan

Do you thicken the accent glazes with cmc gum?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

When applying the wax over the glaze, does the glaze need to be fully dry first before we can apply the wax on top?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Kris Distefano (You): Is it better to put the wax over the tape before the glaze is fully dry or while it is still damp?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

If I choose to use latex instead of stickers, after cleaning the area filled with latex, can I apply wax to the edges and then peel off the latex?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

sorry I missed the info : the butterfly is painted with the vintage white? or another glaze?

She actually used the Vintage White again here to paint the butterfly.

Kaitlynne Flanigan

When you peel off the tape, is it better to do when glaze is slightly damp to avoid chips possibly breaking off?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Do you have issues with glaze flaking/chipping when carving?

live answered

Jennifer Harnetty

Safety of strontium in a functional piece?

live answered

Kaitlynne Flanigan

so, for the glazes to lay inside the carvings, is it okay to be a different consistency than the base glaze? Or is it better to be the same viscosity

live answered

Kaitlynne Flanigan

Can Ruth show us a piece that is finished with all these techniques?

how do you add light colorant to a black glaze? is that just mason stain?

The black actually starts as a semi transparent glaze, but she adds Mason stains and colorants to get the color she is looking for. Silky Matte (Hansens G1214Z)

Kaitlynne Flanigan

Thank you so much!!!

thank you!

Thank you!!

Thank you so much!

Thanks, this helped me so much

Thank you! So wonderful and gracious of you to share!

great presentation, thanks!

Thank you

Thanks!