

CHINA PAINTING BASICS

Sally Brogden, University of Tennessee, 2010

The World Organization of China Painters <http://www.theshop.net/wocporg/>
Porcelain Painters International Online <http://www.ppio.com>
China Paint & Overglaze, Paul Lewing

Description

China Paint is a ceramic painting / coloring technique that handles like watercolor. Traditionally, china paint is applied in multiple layers working light to dark on top of a white glazed surface. To facilitate the layering process work glazed with china paint is often painted and fired multiple times to develop color. China paint can also be applied over colored glazed surfaces and over bisque, however it tends to absorb into the bisque generating a duller result.

Process

China paint colors are powdered and typically get mixed with oil to a thick workable consistency. Once mixed with oil China paint colors will stay wet for about a year. The colors can then be mixed on palette as needed while painting. Brushes need to be well cleaned between colors to prevent contamination. While working clean brush with a cloth as needed and at the end of use clean with a brush cleaner. Areas of Color and mistakes can be removed with a rubber rub off tool or kneaded eraser. China markers and sharpies can be used to sketch before painting, as they will burn out in the fire. China paints fire to cone 016 or 017.

Materials

There are many approaches to China painting using many different oils and combinations of oils as painting mediums. The oil choice for your painting medium is not a right/wrong, it's what suits your project, and almost any oil will do. The goal is to have oil that wets the brush and aids the flow of the colors as you work while also drying before the firing so that the oil flow in the kiln does not cause the color to run. Be sure to clean you brush frequently and thoroughly so the painting medium doesn't dry and make your brush hard.

Technical Info

Mixing medium - Heavy Mineral Oil - mix thick

Painting Medium - 50/60 Heavy Mineral Oil / Copaiba oil

Painting Medium - 50/50 Mineral Oil / Copaiba oil

Copaiba is a drying medium as the % increases drying time speeds.

Mineral oil can be used to slow the drying. Be careful, too much and it will run.

Brush Cleaners - Turpenoid natural, mineral oil, Baby oil, Odorless Turp.

Also available through suppliers are premixed mixing and painting mediums.

CHINA PAINTING BASICS Cont. / Sally Brogden

Firing Info

Electric kiln with 016, 017, 018 in sitter*

*Ideal firing temperature may vary with colors used – you must test

Fire on low for 1 hr with lid cracked

Close lid and fire on medium for 1/2 hour

Turn switches to high. Should fire off quickly.

Ceramic Artist's Who Use China Paint

Leopold Foulem

Richard Milette

Keisuke Mizuno

Kurt Weiser

Suppliers

Rynne China

<http://www.rynnechina.com/>

Maryland China

<http://www.marylandchina.com/apps/category?id=25>

Kathy Peterson's Good Stuff

<http://www.thegoodstuff.com/>

Paints and Porcelain

<http://www.paintsandporcelain.com/>

Paula's China Shoppe

<http://www.paulacollins.net/>

Marci Blattenberger

<http://www.marciblattenberger.com/>

Water Based China Painting

China painting can be accomplished without oil. True success will take some experimentation. See the following page for information @ possible mediums.

Water-Based China Painting Mediums

Medium	Source	Drying	Notes
Water	Tap or bottled	Dries Fast	Delicate Surface
Glycerin	Drugstore	Open	Thickest Medium
Propylene Glycol	Environmentally-friendly Antifreeze	Dries Very Slowly	Dramatic with Alcohol
Ethylene Glycol	Regular Antifreeze	Open	Toxic, Colored
Polyethylene Glycol	Medical Supply (Colyte, GOLYTELY, Glycolax, Fortrans, Miralax, Glycolax)	Dries Fairly Fast & Hard	Good for Crisp Wipeouts
Gum Arabic	Art Supply	Dries Hard	May Peel
Sweetener	Restaurants	Dries Hard	Must Contain Dextrose
Milk	Grocery	Dries Hard	Higher-Fat Dries Harder
Alcohol (Isopropyl or Denatured)	Drugstore	Dries Very Fast	Good for Spraying
Glue	Art Supply, Hardware, Drugstore	Dries Very Hard	May Crawl if Too Thick

China Paint and Overglaze
Paul Lewing