

Introduction to Sgraffito Class

Sgraffito: The decorative technique of incising through slip or glaze to expose the raw clay.

Steps for the sgraffito artist:

- start with a leather hard clay tile
- transfer your design to tracing paper
- using a blunt point, transfer your design to tile
- apply 2 thin coats of underglaze
- insure tracing can be seen
- allow underglaze to dry
- remove color where desired with tools
- constantly remove all debris with a brush
- Dry and bisque fire
- once bisqued, touch up underglaze
- Apply clear glaze
- I use AMACO Sahara HF-9 cone 6 clear glaze
- Use a soft brush
- Be very careful not to smear the underglaze

What is Sgraffito?

Sgraffito (in Italian "to scratch") is a decorating pottery technique produced by applying layers of color or colors (underglazes or colored slips) to leather hard pottery and then scratching off parts of the layer(s) to create contrasting images, patterns and texture and reveal the clay underneath.

The layer(s) of color can be underglazes or colored slips.