A close-up photograph of a hand painting a white stripe on a clay pot. The hand is holding a brush and applying white acrylic paint to the surface of the pot. The background is a blurred, warm-toned setting, possibly a workshop or studio. The text "Painting (with acrylic) on Clay" is overlaid on the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# Painting (with acrylic) on Clay

# Why and When to Paint?

- ✓ Different paints can be used on ceramic, however for this class we will be using acrylic
- ✓ Acrylic paint is a good option for ceramic items if you are not planning on using them
- ✓ You can use paint for decorative pieces (tile, mythical creature, etc)
- ✓ Paint allows for more color choices. Paint can be mixed, blended, tinted, etc. to create even more color options
- ✓ Paint is applied to ceramic after firing



# Examples of Painted Pieces



# Examples of Painted Pieces





# Paint do and don'ts

- ✓ Paint is NOT food safe. Do NOT paint functional pieces
- ✓ Paint must be applied to clay AFTER firing
- ✓ Paint does NOT need to be fired again (glaze does)
- ✓ Paint is generally matte but can be made glossy/shiny by adding a coat of glossy mod podge or varnish
- ✓ Clear glaze CANNOT be applied OVER paint. Paint will burn off in the kiln
- ✓ Acrylic is a plastic based paint and can peel over time if handled often

# Can I combine paint and glaze?

Yes but follow these steps:

- ✓ FIRST you must glaze your bisque fired piece
- ✓ Then Wipe off areas you intend to paint
- ✓ Place your piece on the shelf for glaze firing
- ✓ AFTER your piece comes out of the glaze fire, paint areas without glaze with acrylic paint
- ✓ Remember paint CANNOT go in the kiln, it will burn off



# Examples of Painted AND Glazed Pieces



These pots were glazed. The glaze was wiped off of the eyes. It was then glaze fired. After firing the acrylic paint was added. Notice the difference in finishes. The paint is not as glossy as the glaze.

\*note, we have 2 matte glazes

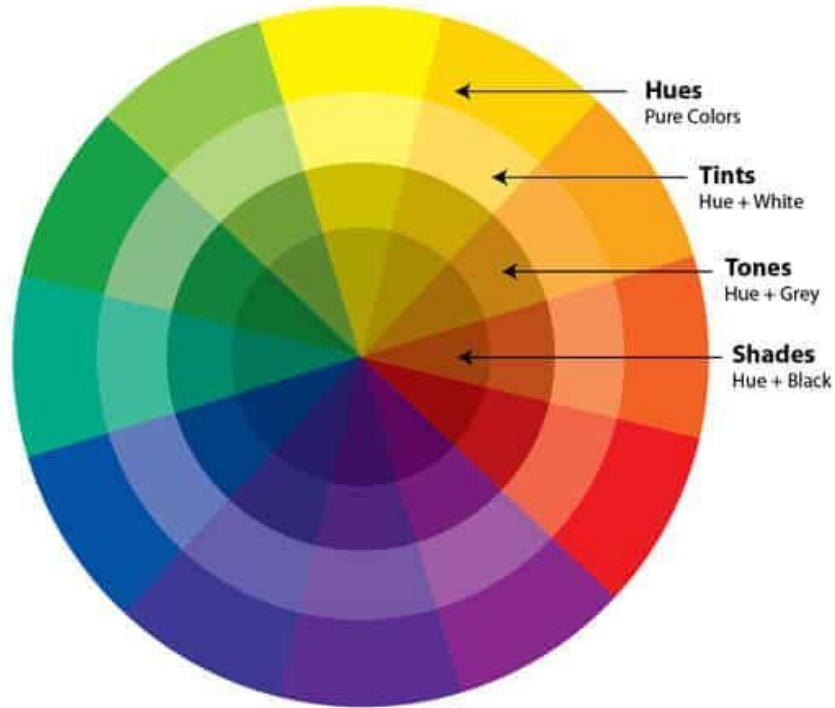


# Mixing Colors

- ✓ Always start with the **lighter** color and add the darker to it, a little at a time  
For example: To create orange, start with yellow and add small amounts of red
- ✓ To create a **Tint** (makes a color lighter): start with white and mix in small amounts of color. For example, if making a pale yellow, begin with white and then mix in small amounts of yellow.
- ✓ To create a **Shades** (makes a color darker): start with the color and mix in small amounts of black. For example, if making a maroon or burgundy color, begin with red and then mix in small amounts of black
- ✓ To create a **Tone** (mutes or dulls a color): create a grey paint by beginning with white and adding small amounts of black. Then add small amounts of grey to your colored paint.



# Hue, tint, tone, shade



# Prep for Painting

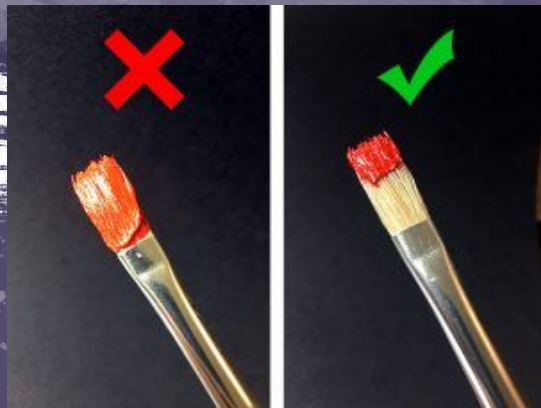
- ✓ Place paper, board, or canvas on table underneath piece
- ✓ Do **NOT** paint directly on the tables (notice how clean they are)
- ✓ Bring pallet to paint. Do **NOT** bring paint to your table
- ✓ Add necessary colors to your pallet (a little goes a long way)
- ✓ Do **NOT** squeeze hard (paint will splatter and containers will break)
- ✓ Paint stains clothes so be careful





# Taking Care of Your Brushes

If your brush has paint on it, when not in use, it **MUST** be sitting in a cup of water to prevent the paint from drying in the bristles



# Cleaning and storing brushes

- ✓ Wash ALL the paint from the brushes after use
- ✓ Always store brushes with the bristles up so this does not occur
- ✓ Return brushes to wire shelf located by the glaze room
- ✓ Keep brushes color coded
- ✓ Do NOT mix them with the brushes in the sink





# DON'T Clean Your Palette

**DO** let the paint dry and peel it later



**DON'T** run your pallet under water. It will splash everywhere and clog the drain



# Happy Painting!

...And remember to clean your brushes

