



After firing, there are many ways to finish a piece.

Leave it as is, in its natural Bisque state (usually white when using white stone clay) or paint with a clear glaze, which will leave a glassy white finish.

Paint with

UNDER GLAZES

(this is a mixture of slip and pigment which we purchase).

The result are true colors that can be mixed like acrylics to create shades/variations in color. These must be fired in a kiln at low temperatures (usually 1500 to 1700 degrees Fahrenheit).

If you desire a glossy finish, a clear glaze can be painted over under glazes once they are dried. The result is a glossy finish like china. I seldom use it for animals as it takes away the texture of the fur or feathers. It's very good to use for vases, cups, bowls, etc.

Paint with

GLOSS GLAZES

It contains a gloss mixed in with the pigment.

Many of these do not appear as their true color in the jar. Joe fired several examples so you can see what the end result looks like. An additional clear glaze is not needed (as is with the under glazes for a shiny look).

Paint with

ACRYLIC PAINTS

This should only be done after applying a sealer. There are several things that can be used as sealers: pre made sealers, a mixture of white glue and water, Acrylic Matte Medium, or commercial art sprays or fixatives. Once a piece has been painted, you may want to spray on a clear matte finish outdoor acrylic spray. It helps protect those items you want to place outdoors and helps indoor items stay cleaner.

*Note: all pieces slwuki contain the slwol's initials (OLLI) scratched on it so that the finished piece can be identified as ours.
You slwuld also have your name or initials on it as well.*



WORKING WITH CLAY

Clay is a very malleable and forgiving medium that is used to create various types of three dimensional art or ceramic pieces. It starts in a wet state which is then compressed by a clay roller, rolling pin or by hand. Pieces may be made from slabs, coils or just lumps of clay, pressed into molds (inside or out) or just free-formed into the object you wish to make. Previously used clay bits and pieces should be wedged before using to compress the clay and remove air.

Texture

Texture can be done many ways: using clay tools, kitchen tools (forks, spoons), lace, pieces of wood or metal, stamps, string, chains, etc. Use your imagination.
This gives your pieces some life and interest.

Clay States

WET - as it is cut or pinched from the clay block ready to use.

LEATHER-HARD - partially dried and firmed up some. Ideal for carving or sculpting. Best for detail work and texturing.

BONE DRY - Must be completely dried before firing. Pieces cannot contain any moisture before being fired or they can explode or break apart in the kiln due to the build-up of steam pressure inside the piece being fired.

NOTE: *Solid pieces must be hollowed out* to allow it to dry properly inside and out. Enclosed hollow pieces must have one or two holes in them to allow gases to escape during firing.

Slip

Slip is made from clay, water and some white vinegar (which is added to reduce drying and prevent mold).

Each type of clay has its' own slip! So check the slip container to make sure the slip matches the clay.

Slip is used for many things:

- Adding pieces of clay (a wing, fin, arms, legs, coil) to a piece
- Repairing thin areas or breaks while the clay still has some moisture.
- Adding texture, or artistic elements to a piece, or drawing on clay.

*Note: Slip should be used only when the clay has some moisture. **If** the clay piece is too dry, the slip will dry at a different rate than the rest of the piece and eventually separate.*

When adding slip to attach a piece of clay to an object, be sure to scratch the area where it is to be attached before applying the slip. This will help it adhere and become a part of the piece.