

Oriental Flowers

Mariapaola Marchetti



Material List:

alcohol
hairdryer
transfer paper
transfer pen
zebra pen
palette knife
round marten brush n. 1 2 3 4
universal medium
lemon oil
I-relief
reserve varnish
matt gold to polish 32%
plastic palette knife for gold

PORCELAIN COLORS:

Black
Yellow
Green Turquoise
Turquoise blue
Bright Yellow
Sheer Pink
Chinese Green
Olive Green
Evening Green
Orange Red



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In this lesson I will show you in a simple and effective way how to paint lotus flowers on thick matte tile.

The matte tile allows me to use some particular bright red colors that adhere well to an opaque base and do not chip off after cooking; these are not cadmium reds. But it is possible to do this work with any color you want, and also on a normal porcelain.

To carry out this work four or five firings are required.

1 - FIRST STEP

Transfer the design, but you can apply a decal if you have one. Place the design on the porcelain, fix it with tape, then insert carbon paper between the porcelain and the drawing.

With a tracing pen, draw all the contours of the drawing, with precision.

Prepare the color to go over the contours just drawn, mixing black with universal medium and lemon oil to get a mixture liquid enough to use with the pen nib.

Outline all the drawing with the pen nib starting from top to bottom, being careful not to cancel the work just done.

Fire at 1400 Fahrenheit.

2 - SECOND STEP

Apply some reserve varnish where you're going to apply gold, around the edges of the borders, and around to the buds of the flowers.

After it has dried up, put liquid bright gold on a glass, mix it well, and apply it with a synthetic brush.

Then with a clean sponge dab, wait a moment and take some gold and dab again.

Wait a moment that it dries slightly and check that the covering is uniform; if it's not ok, do it again.

After it is dried well remove the reserve varnish, and with a thin brush do small corrections where needed.

Now prepare the black color by mixing it with universal medium and lemon oil, obtaining a cream similar to toothpaste.

With a round brush begin to apply the color on the porcelain, creating the shadows with light and dark effects, which you are going to blend with a sponge by dabbing the color.

Then do all the leaves, flowers, buds and so on.

Fire at 1400 Fahrenheit.

3 - THIRD STEP

In this step color the leaves putting reserve varnish around their outline. You can also work without reserve varnish, but you have to clean with extreme precision all around the leaves, when you are done with colouring them.

Prepare the colours as before with universal medium and lemon oil.

For the leaves the following colours are suggested: Olive Green, Chinese Green, Evening Green, Dark Turquoise Blue, Turquoise Green and yellow Egg.

Put on the glass next to the freshly prepared colours a few drops of lemon oil, then dip the round brush in lemon oil and collect the color, which remains fairly diluted.

Put the colours of the leaf on the darker parts, coming forward on the lighter parts, in order to create shades, trying not to mix the colours, but leaving them clearly visible.

Now with a sponge, dab lightly the colours just applied, trying to uniform them.

You have to do the previous operations quickly, so that the colours do not dry out immediately.

Now take a spray bottle with alcohol and spray lightly in the direction of the leaves.

As soon as the alcohol gets in touch with the colours it creates special effects, forming small cute spots.

Dry well with a hairdryer, then take off the reserve varnish and do small corrections where needed.

At this point work on the faded golden buds and create shades with black color.

Now fire at 1400 Fahrenheit.

4 - FOURTH STEP

Put reserve varnish around the flowers and buds you're going to color.

Prepare the colors as before for the leaves, with universal medium and citrus essence.

For the flowers I suggest using orange red, cardinal red and pure pink.

With a round brush spread the color on the flowers, always leaving light and dark areas, then with a sponge dab evenly.

You have to make sure to cover the color evenly so that you don't have any gray parts after cooking.

Remove the reserve varnish, and with a thin brush do small corrections where needed.

At this point you can choose to finish immediately the work. In this case you have to outline flowers, leaves and buds with the pen nib using the black color. You also have to outline the golden parts.

Or you can fire it in the oven and finish it later.

Now fire at 1400 Fahrenheit.

5 - OPTIONAL FIFTH STEP

If you want to create the background, put the reserve varnish all over the painted parts.

Once dry, prepare the black color as before, but this time it must be more liquid.

Apply the color in the background very quickly with a round brush, and dab it lightly with a sponge.

Then spray the alcohol from a close position and get some nice shaded spots.

After drying it very well with a hairdryer, take away the reserve varnish, and do all the finishings with the black color and the nib, being careful not to spoil the background color.

Fire at 1400 Fahrenheit for the last time.

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