

CCSA Convention 2011 Technique Class

Recipe Courtesy of:

Mary Ann O'Hearn, Gare, Inc. & Julie Cates, On the Pot, Salina, KS

Oodles of Doodles Fancy Brush Strokes and Funky Lettering

Materials:

Bisque # 1604 Classic Coupe Dinner Plate

Fun Strokes:

FS 2300 Polar Bear

FS 2301 Smiley Face

FS 2303 Lime Ricky

FS 2304 Green Acres

FS 2305 Blue Heaven

FS 2314 Black Lab

FS 2375 Jumpin' Jelly

Brushes and other materials:

6614 Ultimate II # 10 Square Brush

6602 Ultimate II # 6 Round Brush

6630 Ultimate II # 2/0 Liner Brush

6550 ColorStix Mop Brush

Sponge

Pencil



Directions:

Step 1- Apply 3 coats of Polar Bear to the top side of the plate.

Step 2- Apply two clusters of flowers as seen in the photo. Using the # 10 square brush, load one corner of the brush with Blue Heaven and the other corner of the brush with Jumpin' Jelly. Make the flower by doing 6 or 7 "C" strokes. Refer to diagram and step instructions. Once it's dry, apply dots in the center of each flower by using the back of a brush and Smiley Face.

Step 3- The leaves are done by loading the same square brush with half Lime Ricky and half Green Acres. The larger leaves are done in two strokes. Refer to diagram and step instructions.

Step 4- Smaller leaves are done with one stroke using the # 6 round brush loading one side of the brush with Lime Ricky and the other with Green Acres.

Step 5- Using the liner brush, apply stems and swirls extending from the leaves.

Step 6- Butterfly is done the same as flowers but smaller strokes for the bottom wings.

Step 7- See attached information for lettering.

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Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4

Step 5

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Brush Stroke Examples



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Brush Stroke Tips

Mary Ann O'Hearn – Gare, Inc.

The Round Brush: The most popular brush. The larger # 12 round brush is great for applying overall coverage. Because of its soft roundness, it won't leave streaks. All the different size round brushes are great to do one stroke work as in doing leaves, flower petals and little critters.

The Square Brush: The square brush is mostly used for corner load shading or stripes. It is also good for leaves and flowers when used in one stroke painting.

The Liner Brush: The liner brush is long which allows it to hold more color. It allows you to follow a line longer before having to reload the brush. It's also great for making swirls, scrolls and long lines.

The Detail Brush: The detail brush is just as its name says, mostly used for applying small amount of color and doing detail work such as eyes, lashes, etc.

Tips to help you get the best results:

Keep in mind that brushstrokes require practice and the more you practice the better the results! Once you master it you can do some really nice designs with very little effort. When doing brushstrokes, the motion comes from your shoulder using your whole arm. There isn't much wrist action involved.

- Always hold your brush perpendicular to the piece you are painting with the brush pointing down toward the starting point. Lower brush and draw it towards you--raise it again, all in the perpendicular position. The farther or flatter to the piece that you lower your brush the wider your stroke will be. Always draw your brush stroke towards yourself for more control.
- Try using your little fingertip as a "leg" for your hand to stand on. It will help you get a steadier line.
- I would suggest that you do some practice strokes on paper or scrap pieces of bisque before you do the actual piece.
- When doing fine lines and scroll work adding a little drop of water to your color can give you better results.
- If you press down so the bristles fan out and then pull and lift the brush towards yourself, you will get the motion you need with most brush strokes.
- Even with a thin liner brush, the point will give you a thin line and as you press the line will widen.
- Good stroke work is a combination of motion, pressure and release of pressure.

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Handwriting Tips & Tricks

Julie Cates - On the Pot –Salina, Kansas

1. Practice, Practice, Practice!

Figure out your style and then work on making it consistent! My grade school art teacher once told us to practice painting our letters upside down. It makes you concentrate on the lines instead of the whole letter.

2. Put down a base coat of polar bear if your background is white.

The white layer will serve as a primer for your piece. The glaze will go on a bit more even at the edges of your letters, and you can take it off easily if you mess up!

3. Fun writers vs. brushes

Figure out which you like best. I use a fun writer whenever I can. For small lettering, I use a long liner brush.

4. The beauty of black

When I use a brush for lettering, I love black. Dip the brush in water and don't wipe it off. Water the glaze down just a bit so that it goes on more like ink. This will really help you get nice even lines.

5. Pencil in guidelines & lettering before you paint

Guidelines help make sure your lettering is even and level. It also helps to sketch in your letters to be sure they fit. The trick to using pencil is to use a dry brush to remove the excess graphite before you paint. If you don't the graphite will resist the glaze and give you wavy edges.

6. Let the banding wheel be your guide

I have found it helpful to put pieces on a banding wheel and lightly pencil in concentric circles while the wheel is spinning. This will help with centering, arching, and sizing guides for your lettering.

7. Do your lettering before you do the graphics!

I think it is much easier to center a graphic amid letters than it is to center lettering around a graphic.

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