OBJECTIVES
Students will...
• Create original pieces of ceramic art (a tile, bowl, plate, vase, sculpture, etc.)

INTRODUCTION
A refreshing method of incorporating the study of art history into the art curriculum is the interpretation and application of two-dimensional references onto three-dimensional surface forms constructed of clay. The final product could be a close approximation of the reference, such as the two examples provided, or an abstract interpretation, or any other variation.
Choose a genre of art, a specific time period, or media and instruct students to research artists from a list provided by the teacher. An introductory explanation/discussion session is advisable. Visual references may be useful as well.

Have students select a specific work of art and print out a reference copy.

After studying the reference image, have students interpret how the two-dimensional pictorial surface could be transformed into a low, medium, or high relief onto the surface of the form they are planning to build in clay.

Draw a series of thumbnail sketches depicting possible forms with altered relief surfaces, based on the pictorial references.

Prior to constructing the 3-D form, have students discuss their design sketches with the teacher. Recommendations concerning construction methods can be finalized with the student. Dimensional forms can be created with the following techniques: pinch, slab, draping, coil, wheel-thrown, etc.

For best results use AMACO® white bodied clays: (No. 25 White Art Clay, No. 27 Off-White Sculpture Clay, or No. 20 Versa Clay). The white clay body provides the perfect “canvas” for application of glazes.
Have students use a variety of AMACO® clay tools and equipment to assist in the construction and surface texturing of the forms. The tool and equipment list includes the following items: Brent® Clay Extruder and Die Sets, AMACO® Wedging Board, Brent® Slab Roller, AMACO® Potter’s Wheel, AMACO® Plastic Bats, AMACO® No. 5 Aluminum Decorating Wheel, AMACO® SP-Mender, and AMACO® Teacher’s Palette® glazes.

Upon completion of the building, drying, and firing processes, have students apply AMACO® Teacher’s Palette® glazes in a painterly manner. Teacher’s Palette® glazes are mixable, so unlimited colors can be created prior to application. Additionally, these glazes can be applied like paint and blended together on the surface of the bisque forms or layered one color over another. The glazes will not run together and drip.

As with any new product, it is recommended to create glaze sample tiles in all colors on the clay body of choice. Color mixing of the glazes and test firing is also recommended prior to final application. White clay bodies will produce different results than toned clay bodies. Recommended firing temperatures: Cone 04 for bisque-firing the clay and Cone 05 for the glaze firing.

Alternative Lesson Plan for Elementary & Middle School

Elementary and middle school teachers may choose to use white bisque tiles as a painting surface for the study of Master Painters using AMACO® Teacher’s Palette® glazes.
MATERIALS LIST

- AMACO® No. 25 White Art Clay, 25 lbs. — 0800241 or 50 lbs. — 0800242
- AMACO® No. 27 Off-White Sculpture Clay, 25 lbs. — 0900487 or 50 lbs. — 0900488
- AMACO® No. 20 Versa Clay, 50 lbs. — 9716644
- Brent® Clay Extruder — Z42155
- Standard Dies for Extruder, set of 3 — Z45612
- AMACO® Wedging Board — 0300386
- Brent® Slab Roller — Z11508
- Brent® Potter’s Wheel — Z20662
- AMACO® Plasti-Bat® — 9728782
- AMACO® Aluminum Decorating Wheel — 0300515
- AMACO® Teacher’s Palette® Glazes — 9730113(A-R), set of 12 pints — 9730309