



Decoration & Design Pt. 1: Scratching the Surface

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Sgraffito (in Italian "to scratch") is the process of applying color and then scratching off parts of the layer(s) to reveal the clay underneath.

Tools:

1. Brushes
2. Metal Ribs
3. Carving Tools
4. Mudtools Smoothing Sponge
5. AMACO Underglaze



Instructions:

1. Start with a clean surface. Your clay should be leatherhard throughout the process.
2. Paint a section of slip or underglaze on your piece (wherever you want your design to be). Depending on the effect you want, you can apply more or less underglaze. If you want the color to be slightly transparent, apply less (perhaps one coat). If you want the color to be solid, apply at least two layers.
3. Wait for the color layer to dry before carving. It should not look glossy or have a sheen!
4. Use the carving tool of your choice to scratch back into the color and reveal the clay underneath. Remember, each tool will produce a different line quality, as will the pressure you exert on the piece.

