

CLAY ETCHING

Clay Etching using Argila Grogged White Pottery Clay (Fish tile)

- Make a tile out of the clay and use stamps or tools to decorate the surface but make sure that most of the tile is free from stamped decoration.
- Leave uncovered for 3 days to harden and dry out.
- Apply wax resist over the stamped or decorated area and let dry so that is area is not dissolved in the etching process.
- Draw the required design with lead pencil and apply the wax resist over this drawn line.
- Allow the wax to dry, gently, using a wettish sponge, wash the tile surface. The clay will slowly dissolve from the unwaxed area revealing a raised area where the first layer of wax has been applied. When the tile is dry, continue to draw a design and wax the new area.
- The above steps can be repeated in order for a number of levels to be generated, each time the wax is applied the clay should be dry.
- Leave tile to dry completely.
- Bisque Fire the clay to 1000C, the wax and pencil marks will burn away.
- After the Bisque firing, a transparent glaze can be painted over the clay surface. The etch out layers will hold the glaze and will appear darker after the final firing.
- Fire the glaze to the recommended temperate.



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