

# Title: Terra Cotta Floral

## Artist: Arlene Smith

Opening:

In the hills of Tuscany lies the small town of Impruneta. For hundreds of years, artisans have produced the most spectacular terra cotta in the world. Here is an opportunity for you to experience the joy of decorating on terra cotta.

1. Using clay carbon, trace pattern in center of bowl, making sure the design does not go over on to the rim. HINT: Use a red pencil when tracing this helps you to see what has been traced. Do not damp sponge piece prior to tracing, clay carbon does not work on damp piece.

2. Using a damp sponge, wipe piece down to remove any dust and to prepare for applying dimensional slip.

Using the dimensional application kit and neutral dimensional slip, prepare as follows:

Dimensional slip is formulated to adhere to most clay bodies, and can be applied to greenware or bisque. Surface should be damp before application.

Shake the bottle until it is mixed thoroughly, consistency should be like pudding. If the product is too thick add just a little water.

Use the squeeze bottle to fill bag, making sure to NOT over fill. Bag should not be more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.

Gather and twist the end of bag and put a rubber band on twisting until the closure is tight.

Keep the wire stopper inserted into tip until ready for use. This will keep the product from drying in tip.

Lay the bag in the palm of your hand, close fingers around bag. Place tip on surface at a 45 degree angle. Squeeze gently, keeping pressure consistent. Always pull from left to right or top down. Remember these lines will work as a barrier for the color.

4. Apply Dimensional slip to all traces lines, including dots in center of flowers. Allow to dry, takes about 30 minutes. Now is the time to add your signature using dimensional slip.

Using a medium sumi brush, float color in the following areas:

Flowers – Neon Yellow

Leaves – Light Kiwi

NOTE: To float color, add equal amounts of color and water. Pick up color drop in center of flower petal and push color to piped line. Be careful to keep color inside design area.

6. Add Neon Yellow and Neon Orange to palette, color is used full strength. Using the appropriate size sumi brush, work on one petal at a time.

7. Starting at the base of the petal, load brush with Neon Orange and pull approximately two thirds of the way toward to outside of petal, before color dries pick up Neon Yellow and pull from outer edge toward center. This will blend colors. Continue in this manner until all petals are painted.

8. Repeat step 7.

9. Add Neon Red to palette. Using a sumi brush, load brush with water, tap end of brush on sponge to remove



excess water from tip. Just on tip of brush pick up Neon Red. Keeping the tip of brush toward the center of flower shade by pressing brush flat and giving a bouncing motion. This will cause the color to spread and blend. Continue to shade the petals in this same manner, shading only where one petal is behind another.

10. To darken shading, repeat step 9, making sure the first layer of color is dry before adding a second coat.

11. Add to palette, Bright Kelp and Dark Kiwi. Using the sumi brush, load with water, remove excess water from tip and pick up Bright Kelp, shade around the outside of each leaf. Keep the tip of the brush against the piping, flatten brush and bounce. Complete all leaves the same.

12. Using Dark Kiwi and the same brush, apply color in the same manner as above. This time just shade where one leaf is behind a petal or another leaf. To make the shadows darker, let first coat dry then apply a second coat.

13. Using a liner brush and Black, paint each dimensional dot of flower center.

14. Add White to your palette, using a large brush apply 2 coats to the background. Be careful and keep the color in center of bowl only. TIP: Before applying the second coat, add a little food coloring to the product. This will help when you to see where you have painted, giving you an even second coat of color. The food coloring fired away and does not affect the color.

15. Outside rim is divided into 32 sections. The easiest way to divide the bowl in to turn the bowl over and trace around outside edge on a large piece of paper. Cut out with scissors. Then fold the piece in half, fold into quarters, then eight's, sixteenths and last into thirty-second's. Open up place on top of bowl and mark on bowl where the fold lines are.

16. Always have the line you are about to draw in front of. Draw line from center edge of bowl to dot on edge, turn plate and draw again from center to dot on edge, continue into all lines are drawn. This will keep the lines straight and allow for the curvature of the bowl.

17. Using Light Kiwi and a large round brush apply two coats of Light Kiwi to every other stripe. Allowing drying between coats.

18. Using White French Dimensions add dots down each side of Light Kiwi strip and then around inside rim of bowl, dividing design from rim.

When dry, apply 2 to 3 coats of clear glaze to front and back of piece, when dry, stilt and fire to shelf cone 06.

#### Contact Information:

For additional information please contact the artist at:

c/o Ceramics and Crafts Warehouse

13595 12<sup>th</sup> Street

Chino, CA 91710

909 627-4139

[asmith@ceramics-crafts.com](mailto:asmith@ceramics-crafts.com)

#### Materials List:

Terra Cotta Bisque: by Hobby Colorobbia  
MHC0390R Large Round Coupe Bowl Red

Colors: Duncan  
CN172 Bright Kelp  
CN181 Light Kiwi  
CN183 Dark Kiwi  
CN241 White  
CN253 Dark Black  
CN501 Neon Yellow  
CN504 Neon Orange  
CN507 Neon Red  
FD258 French White

GL612 Diamond Clear

Brushes:

Duncan

SB802 #1 Liner

SB807 Fan Glaze

Ceramics & Crafts Warehouse

Small Premium Sumi

Medium Premium Sumi

Large Premium Sumi

Dimensional Products: Ceramics & Crafts Warehouse

Dimensional Slip – Neutral

Dimensional Slip Application Kit – Size 00

Miscellaneous:

Water Container

Paper Towels

Red Pencil

Clay Carbon

Sponge

Scissors

Paint Palette

**SEE PAGE 4 FOR PATTERN**

pattern shown at 50%

