

Monoprinting – Plaster to Clay

For the monoprint, you will need:

Clay, a plaster “block”, underglaze or slip, paintbrushes, a rolling pin, a rib tool for smoothing out your clay surface

In this process, the first layer that you paint will be the topmost layer when you do your print. The last layer will be the background layer

For example, if one wanted to do a tile monoprint of a red apple with a yellow background, this is how they would proceed:

- Paint the black slip or underglaze outline of an apple onto the plaster block
- Once that layer dries, fill in the red area of the apple and stem color
- Once the prior underglaze or slip application dries, paint in background. It is fine to paint over the image, because the red will cover the yellow up in the finished product (also adds a nice underpainting effect in some instances)

Once your background layer is dry you are ready to do the transfer!

- Apply a layer of slip to a rolled out clay slab
- Place slab onto your plaster block, with the wet side touching the block
- Take a rolling pin and apply gentle and even pressure onto the slab. Let the slab sit on the plaster for about 20 minutes- this gives time for the plaster to soak the moisture out of the slip, which helps release the image from the plaster block.
- Gently peel slab off plaster. If not enough of the image is releasing onto the clay slab from the plaster, it may need more setup time, so pat the slab back down and let it sit for longer

Faux Photocopy Transfer

This is a fun and easy process. All you will need is:

Clay, a photocopied image, underglaze or slip, a squeeze bottle with a fine point.

Outline your photocopied image with underglaze – this is easily applied with the squeeze bottle

Once your image dries, paint a layer of slip over the image and apply the transfer to your wet clay. Let the slip set up before peeling the paper off!

The same process can be done without a photocopy with smooth newsprint, if one chooses to do freehand, screenprinted, or original imagery