

Recycled Pots

Everyone loves to make a ceramic pot from traditional clay. These plastic bottle pots are very handsome and perfectly shaped for decorating. Looking at them it is impossible to tell they are not made of clay. The big surprise is their lightweight quality.

Students need experience in decorating pots of simple shapes. The following books demonstrate techniques in ceramics:

[Decorating Techniques](#) (70156-1003)

[Glazing Techniques](#) (70156-1002).

The Paintstiks® and polymer clay used can easily and simply be made to resemble the “real thing”. Study ethnic vases and vessels.

Grade Levels 5-12



Materials:

Shiva® Artist's Paintstik® Oil Colors*:

Titanium White (00409-1014) 3 sticks per class; Naphthol Red (00409-3604) 2 sticks per class; Azo Yellow (00409-4454) 2 sticks per class; Yellow Ochre (00409-4044) 2 sticks per class; Student 12 Color Set (00402-1019) 1 set per class; Professional Iridescent 6 Color Set (00405-1019)

**Note - Shiva® Artist's Paintstik® Oil Colors are a paint without damar varnish and only a drop of linseed oil. They are non toxic and clean up with soap and water. The paint contains pigment and a drying agent. Paintstiks are in stick form and of lipstick consistency. The dryer helps the paint to dry in about 24 hours. It also helps adhere to many surfaces including ceramics, paper, cloth, metal and plastic. Humid areas will take longer to dry. The paint is very intense and a little goes a long way, cut each stick in half to share. The paint will have a dry skin on it to protect the paint. This skin is as thin as a membrane on an egg. Remove the skin using a knife tip to gently open, then peel off. After use do not remove excess paint. Drop the uncleaned sticks into a gallon zip lock bag. To use again, remove the old paint with a knife. This process saves paint.*

[Lumina Polymer Air Dry Clay](#) (33270-1001) 1 package per 5 students

[Maysville Cotton Warp](#) - Black (62800-2050); Linen (62800-1500); Brown (62800-8000)

[Natural Feather Assortment](#) (61432-1005) 1/2-oz package, 6 per class

[Pheasant Church Feathers](#) (60910-0000) Package of approximately 40, size 2" to 5", 3 packages per class

[Spotted Guinea Feathers](#) (61401-6409) package of approximately 640 assorted-color feathers, 1 per class

[Excel Hobby Knife](#) (57458-1001) 1 per student

[Ribbon Rainbow](#) (61498-1009) 25 yard package, 1 per class

[Raffia](#) 6-oz package mixed colors, (60908-1005) 1 per class; 12-oz package natural (60908-1375) 1 per class

[Blick Artist's Acrylic Gesso](#) (00623-1027) 1 quart per class

[Blick Economy White Bristle Bright](#) (05170-1024) Size 24, 3 per class to apply gesso

[Weldbond® Adhesive](#) (23819-1105) 3 8-oz bottles per class

Clean/empty 64-oz plastic drink bottle, 1 per student

Process

1. Remove any loose labels from the bottles. Sketch a design using the shape of the bottle as the main form. The bottles can eventually be trimmed after the gesso and Paintstiks® are applied.
2. If the total bottle is used, leave the neck on to hold it as you work. Paint on a coat of gesso. A wider opening cut in the lower part of the bottle creates a bowl shape. This needs gesso inside and out. Cut shape with knife. The cut does not have to be perfect. Let gesso dry 4-5 hours.
3. Remove the dry skin from the Paintstiks®. Apply the paint as you would apply pastels or use a bristle brush to smooth out the paint. Apply more paint or change colors as desired to cover the bottle's surface. The paint mixes beautifully so blend as needed. Let dry.
4. The Lumina Air Dry Clay is translucent when dry. It can be painted with acrylics or Paintstiks®. Small bones and claw shapes can be made with holes for stringing, use the cotton warp or other thin ribbon. The raffia may be divided or torn to make thinner string like pieces. Capping off the top edges of the cut plastic with coils of Lumina gives the illusion of real clay. Make coils to fit. Add rounds of beads also. Press on the cut edges when soft. If it does not dry securely, place a small amount of Weldbond® in loose areas. Lumina can be cut with scissors or scored when soft.
5. Raffia, ribbon and carpet warp can be added. Brush a small amount of glue on areas and wrap the fiber around the bottle. Hold gently until the glue sets slightly. To add feathers and other embellishment, dip tips into glue then stick under fiber. Tuck in and secure.

Options:

1. Use any plastic bottles. Liquid soaps have great shapes. Try water bottles.
2. Change feet by adding Lumina. Shape and let dry. Glue if necessary.
3. Cut out designs. Be careful not to weaken the shape.

Hints:

1. If used as a tall vase shape, fill with sand about 1/3 of the way up from the bottom for balance.
2. Sand can also be used to secure weeds added to the vase.

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National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

5-8

Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

9-12

Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques, and processes they use

Content Standard #2 — Using knowledge of structures and functions

5-8

Students select and use the qualities of structures and functions of art to improve communication of their ideas

9-12

Students demonstrate the ability to form and defend judgments about the characteristics and structures to accomplish commercial, personal, communal, or other purposes of art

Content Standard #3 — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

5-8

Students integrate visual, spatial, and temporal concepts with content to communicate intended meaning in their artworks

9-12

Students reflect on how artworks differ visually, spatially, temporally, and functionally, and describe how these are related to history and culture