

Plique A jour with a New Methodology with Patsy Croft

You will have the opportunity to change the way you think of Plique a Jour. This advanced enameling technique is made easier through a new methodology. New and old materials can simplify the technique and also allow you to create an enamel 'jewel' in any shape.



This image (pendant without stone shown above) is how we usually think of pierced pliqué a jour. Most artists will use this technique with the aid of Klyre Fire to hold in the powdered enamels before firing. This piece of plique a jour is created in 18k gold sheet of 22 ga. The use of gold gives you more strength and allows you to create jewels in a thinner gauge, to keep your cost down.



The bird of paradise piece is more involved. I want to show where you can go with pliqué a jour. Here I have chased the bird of paradise in 18k gold sheet of 16 ga. and cut away the negative space. I used 18k flat wire to make the leaves and soldered them in place. With such large open spaces the use of foils aid in holding the enamel in, until fired, then removed. The stone setting took place before the enameling. Less worry of cracking your enameled piece.



This is a pair of cloisonné earring with a drop of pliqué a jour leaves (on the drops) and a ruby. I would never get a stone cut like this much less be able to afford it. It is a nice option when you have an unusual shape or maybe you do not have the color of stone you would like for your jewel on hand.

Come with a design that you can fabricate in 18k gold. Choose a gauge that compliments you design. It can be domed as the bird of paradise, flat like the church window, or dimensional, with or with out stones. We will try Klyre Fire, Foils, and Wet Felt in class to explore the possibilities of pliqué a jour with these materials. You will provide your own gold for this class and students should be intermediate to advance in metalsmithing.

Student List of tools and materials:

- Note pad and pencil
- Sharpie marker
- Tracing paper
- Drill bits sizes: 61 -74; at least 10 of your size choice
- Diamond Ball bur size 1.1 (Rio Grande #343-023)
- Cratex Bullets Medium and Fine
- Sheet of Mica
- A set of Enamels: approx. 10 transparent colors of your choice (one light blue minimum) from either Coral at Enamel Works (205-525-9271) who can make you an inexpensive sample kit or Thompson's Enamel (800-545-2776)
- Small water jar (2 to 3 oz)
- Gold Solder: Hard & Medium (David Fell Refinery 800-822-1996 has the best)
- Flux = 1 oz firescoff flux (Firescoff 800-535-4980)
- 18K gold Sheet: 18g or 20g, approx 1" square, for a pendant; or (2) 22g _ inch squares for earrings.
- 1 square of pure platinum foil, .002 from Hauser Miller (800-462-7447)
- Any findings that you may need to complete your piece
- You may include small stones (cabs or faceted) and the appropriate bezel wire
- 1 recommend approximately 2 mm 28g. bezel wire and 1 mm 30 g. step bezel wire . If you do not know how to make this type of bezel, there will be a demo.
- 1 _ square four point trivet, (Thompson's Enamel #FST-2 or from Enamel Works)
- Flex shaft and clamp on stand (some are available on site, please bring one if possible)
- Needle files: barrette, round, half-round
- Dividers
- Millimeter ruler
- Scribe
- 24 saw blades: 6/0 or 4/0 and saw frame
- Small flat burnisher
- Barrett hand file

Optional:

Trinket Kiln and controller, if you have one – Patsy will teach you to use this for the technique.

Cross Cut flame bur (Rio Grande #348-340)

Cross Cut cylinder bur (Rio Grande #348-700)

Several drill bit chucks if your flex shaft will not hold these very small drill bits (Otto Frei #128.215)

Lab fee of \$35 to cover:

Enameling brushes

Heat Stop

Enamel Flux Bovano #3

Plaster form material

Klyr fire

Glass brush

Copper foil

Nitric acid

Heat Supply for nitric acid and containers

Distilled Water

2 oz. solo cups with lids

600, 800, 1200 wet /dry sand paper

Foredom sanding discs and mandrel

Face masks for nitric acid

Drill press, Soldering stations, 2 Kilns with controllers, kiln wash