

# Happening Heads-Painting with Cover Coat

- Supplies:**
- ✓ Brushes, small and medium
  - ✓ Cover coat
  - ✓ Clear glaze
  - ✓ Plastic palettes
  - ✓ Paper towels
  - ✓ Sponge and water (for removing glaze from bottom of projects)

- Set-up:**
- Cover tables with old sheets or vinyl tablecloths and set out the air dried clay heads.
  - Set out brushes and Cover Coat colors for students.

**The heads should have already been fired on the Bisque setting in the kiln before this class.**

**Lesson:** **Step 1:** Using the Cover Coat Tile Board (found in kiln room) as a reference, have students choose 2-3 colors to start with, placing small amounts of colored slip into palettes for children to work from. The Cover Coat Tile Board allows the children to see what their colors will look like after firing. Each project will require 2-3 coats of Cover Coat. They don't need to wait for each coat to dry before applying the next coat of Cover Coat.

**Step 2:** Pour small amounts of Cover Coat (a little goes a long way, these are very expensive, and students can always come back for more if need be) into white plastic palettes and choose a small brush. Load brush with color and use dabbing method to apply it. Apply 2-3 layers of cover coat. Rinse brush between colors, blot brush dry with paper towels.

**After Class:**

**2<sup>ND</sup> Firing:** After each child has painted their heads, make sure there is at least 2-3 coats of Cover Coat on the heads, fill in any gaps if you can. Now apply clear glaze over the painted heads. Clear glaze is located in room 27 and is a milky aqua color. It is **EXTREMELY** important that none of this glaze gets on the bottom of the tile. The clear glaze will stick to the kiln, making it impossible to remove the tile without breaking it. If the clear glaze does get on the bottom of the tile, use a sponge and water to wipe it off. You can always stilt the heads so they do not stick to the kiln shelf. The heads may be fired at **Glaze firing** setting on the kiln once the glaze has dried, which dries very fast.

**\*NOTE:** If your teacher will allow extra class time, the students may apply the clear glaze after they have painted their heads. Stress the importance of **NOT** getting glaze on the bottom of clay piece! If any glaze is left on the bottom, it will adhere to the kiln during firing and is impossible to remove. Use a damp sponge to wipe the bottom clean before putting the pieces in cardboard boxes with teacher's name and put in kiln room. Fire after glaze dries.