



Delightful Pumpkin Platter

Celebrate harvest season with this brushwork project

By Arlene Smith

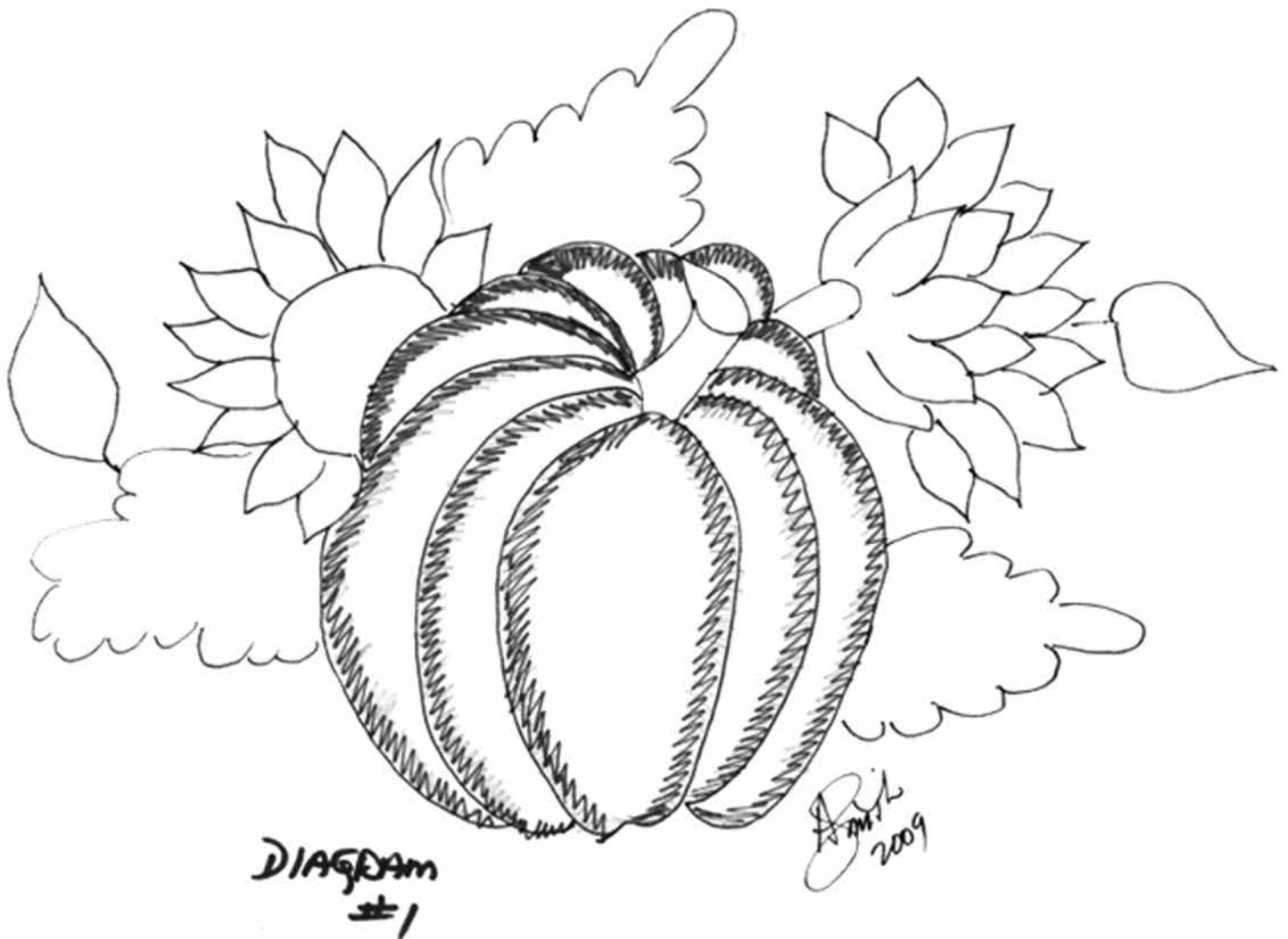
Objectives

- Float colors to achieve a blended effect in design
- Add details with a liner brush

Step 1: Trace the pattern onto the ware using clay carbon and a red pen or pencil. **Note:** Do not wipe bisque with a damp sponge before using clay carbon. The carbon paper does not like water.

Step 2: Wipe the piece with a damp sponge to remove dust and prepare it for painting.

Step 3: Place Yellow Orange and Orange on palette paper or tile, then add enough water to make each color the consistency of light cream.



Pumpkin Platter pattern (size to fit)

Step 4: Condition the #6 round with water and load it with Yellow Orange. Following the contours of the pumpkin, apply one coat of Yellow Orange.

Step 5: Load the brush with Orange and apply it to the same areas, leaving a little Yellow Orange showing through.

Step 6: Add Poppy Orange, Medium Mahogany, and Roasted Chestnut to your palette and thin the colors to a light cream consistency.

Step 7: Use the shader to float Poppy Orange in as shown in Diagram 1. To float color, load the brush in water and tap it onto a paper towel to remove the excess. Then corner-load Poppy Orange and blend the color on the palette (this allows the color to blend on the brush) before applying color to the ware.

Step 8: Using the same float stroke, load your brush with Medium Mahogany and float color in as shown in Diagram 2.

Step 9: Apply one coat of Medium Mahogany to the stem of the pumpkin.

Step 10: Load the liner with Roasted Chestnut thinned to the consistency of ink. Pull in detail strokes on the pumpkin (see Diagram 3). Also, add lines to the stem.

Step 11: Add Buttercream to the palette and thin. Load a round with Buttercream, side load it with Yellow Orange, and then tip the brush

in Orange or Poppy Orange. Using a tip-press-pull-and-lift stroke, pull in each sunflower petal. If the color is not dark enough, apply a second coat.

Step 12: Using a round, stipple the center of each flower with Yellow Orange, then apply a second coat using Orange. With Medium Mahogany, stipple about two-thirds of the center and repeat with Roasted Chestnut, only covering about half of the center. Apply more color as needed.

Step 13: Add Irish Green and Leaf Green to the palette and thin as before. With a round, apply a first coat of Irish Green to all of the leaves.

Step 14: For the second coat on the leaves, load the brush with Irish Green, side load with Leaf Green, and tip with your choice of the following: Yellow Orange, Orange, Poppy Orange or Buttercream. Vary your tip choice between leaves. Pull the color onto the leaves from the outside moving toward the center.

Step 15: Paint the calyx on the back of the right-hand flower using the same colors as in Step 14. When painting the calyx, pull strokes from the stem toward the flower petals. If necessary, apply a second coat to these areas.

Step 16: Add Cobalt Jet Black to the palette and thin it to the consistency of ink. Use a liner to detail the entire piece (see Diagram 4).

Materials

Bisque ware of choice (example shown is Duncan 22697 Snack Tray)
Sponge
Clay carbon
Palette knife
Palette paper or tile

Colors by Duncan

EZ Strokes:

EZ 003 Irish Green
EZ 012 Cobalt Jet Black
EZ 026 Yellow Orange
EZ 026 Leaf Green
EZ 034 Orange
EZ 038 Medium Mahogany
EZ 058 Poppy Orange
EZ 059 Buttercream
EZ 068 Roasted Chestnut
Pure Brilliance clear glaze

Brushes by Duncan

SB 802 No. 1 liner
SB 806 No. 6 round
SB 808 No. 4 round
SB 809 No. 6 shader
SB 807 No. 6 fan glaze

Miscellaneous

Red pen or pencil
Scissors
Water container
Paper towels

Step 17: Use the shader to add Poppy Orange squares around the edge of the plate. Apply two coats.

Step 18: Using the handle of a brush, place Cobalt Jet Black dots between each square on the edge.

Step 19: Sign the piece if desired and allow it to dry overnight. Apply two coats of Pure Brilliance glaze to the front and back. Again, let dry overnight.

Step 20: Stilt and fire ware to cone 06.

Advanced Methods

By altering the pattern size you could create a set of plates and/or bowls to match the serving tray. Add to or change the pattern to suit different shapes.

Arlene Smith is a ceramic artist and accomplished fired arts teacher. Find out more about her classes, seminars, and webinars at www.arlenedee.com

Sources

Duncan: www.ilovetocreate.com

