



## APPLICATION OF DECORATIVE PAINTING ON TABLEWARE CERAMICS

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### ARTICLE INFO

Received on

1 October 2024

Revised on

13 January 2025

Accepted on

3 April 2025

### KEYWORDS

Tableware

Painting

Techniques

Decorative

### ABSTRACT

This internship/work practice report explores the theme of nature and its surroundings as the inspiration for creating artwork. In this project, the author is inspired by the natural environment, including the sea, leaves, and stones. From these ideas, textures, shapes, and colors are developed in the artworks. The work created will be tableware. Tableware refers to the dishes and utensils used by people for eating and drinking. Besides its primary functions of eating, serving food, and setting the table, tableware can also serve as decorative art that can be displayed. The goal of this project is to make functional tableware more attractive by applying painting art, making it not only functional but also decorative. The artworks feature various techniques in terms of shape, texture, coloring, decoration, and more. The creation process begins with observation, studying, and managing ideas, followed by contemplation, and ultimately the creative process is realized through painting on ceramics. This report aims to understand the utility of the tools and materials, as well as the stages of the creation process. In conclusion, the author has gained valuable learning and knowledge during the internship/work practice. The author hopes that this creation will serve as an inspirational piece for readers.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) Program has become one of the innovations in improving the academic world, with the expectation of restoring the quality of higher education, which will in turn enhance the quality of human resources. Kampus Merdeka represents an autonomous and flexible learning model in higher education, fostering an innovative learning culture that is non-restrictive and aligned with the needs of students. The MBKM program for students completing the internship/practical work activities at the Indonesian Art Institute in Denpasar this year is being organized in collaboration with industry partners (DUDI) who have relevance, reputation, and dedication to advancing higher education in the fields of arts, design, creative industries, and culture.

Internships are a learning process that involves gaining and mastering skills, either with or without guidance from individuals already skilled in that field [1]. The internship/practical work program is



designed to provide students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge they have acquired during their studies in the real-world working environment. Internship activities provide students with experiences that help them develop both hard skills (skills, complex problem-solving, analytical skills) and soft skills (professional/work ethics, communication, teamwork). Furthermore, internships also provide industries with the opportunity to discover talented individuals who, if suitable, can be directly recruited, thus reducing recruitment and initial training/induction costs.

Ceramic Art is a branch of fine arts that processes earth materials to create artworks, ranging from traditional to contemporary forms [2]. Ceramic crafts are essentially handmade works of art, created using clay as the primary material. Additionally, ceramic craftsmanship is distinguished based on principles of functionality and production. From the beginning, ceramics were popular for their function as decorative objects. In the world of fine arts, ceramics are considered part of the applied arts or craftsmanship; however, in contemporary times, ceramics have evolved into pure art and can compete with other fine art forms such as painting or sculpture.

Initially, ceramics were only made as household utensils. However, their use has expanded over time. Nowadays, ceramics are not only used for tableware such as plates, glasses, bowls, and other breakable items, but they are also used as beautiful decorative objects that can enhance the appearance of a room. Ceramic materials are usually made from clay, which can form from minerals like coal or sand, or from a mixture of clay and other materials. There are several ceramic-making techniques, including the coil technique, wheel technique, slab technique, molding technique, and pinch technique. Design-wise, ceramics can be minimalist, elegant, colorful, and come in various shapes (fruits, marine life, food, etc.), with designs or motifs tailored to the needs or interior surroundings [3].

Inspired by the observations and learning experiences, the writer is motivated to explore and develop ceramic artworks to make them more appreciated and sought after, especially in the transition from traditional art industries to modern art, by applying decorative painting techniques on ceramic tableware. The writer also aims to explore, experiment with, and discover various shapes and techniques, while also seeking out ceramic designs or models suitable as decorative items such as vases, planter pots, wall decorations, sculptures, and more.

## **2. METHODS**

The implementation method refers to the systematic way or stages of achieving artistic work with specific goals and uses[4]. It outlines the stages of artistic creation, from inspiration or idea development, design, to the realization of the artwork. The creation method for this work was guided by the owner, office staff, and factory staff during the internship, with the writer's observations forming the stages. These stages were studied in depth through basic research and field surveys. The stages consist of the creation stage, production stage, forming stage, refinement stage, and completion stage. Here are some methods that the author applies from the method of Tanteri Ceramics to create the artworks.

### **2.1. Creation stage**

In the process of creating each artwork, there are stages, beginning with the idea/inspiration, which emerged from seeing many plain plates, bowls, cups, etc., stacked in the warehouse, unsold. The idea came that these items would become more appealing if painted with various ornaments, such as underwater life with different shapes and patterns of fish. Similarly, applying paintings of flora and fauna

would add an artistic element, making the items that were once piled up in the warehouse more attractive and desirable.

## **2.2. Production stage**

Design creation is the initial stage before the process of creating an artwork. In this stage, there are two types of design: the first is manual, and if the design request is complex or difficult, a 3D design is created and then handed over to the factory manager. For the first artwork, which includes five plates, the production was done by casting molds shaped like plates using liquid clay. The mold-making stage is necessary when mass production is required. The purpose of making molds is to produce items more easily or efficiently, saving time. The second artwork includes plates, a teapot, small spoons, and cups. The plates and small spoons were made the same way as the first piece, by casting molds with liquid clay. However, the teapot and cup were made using the throwing technique with solid clay on an electric wheel or throwing machine. The third artwork also utilized the mold-casting technique, similar to the first piece.

## **2.3. Forming stage**

In this stage, the artist is expected to bring the creative form of an artwork to life using the correct techniques. After the production stage, trimming is done to perfect the form by scraping off excess clay and smoothing the surface with a sponge. Once trimming is completed, the next step is decoration, which can include various techniques such as attaching handles, creating patterns, and adding embellishments.

## **2.4. Refining stage**

At this stage, the artist determines the desired coloring technique, which may include painting, spraying, or dipping the ceramics in paint. After coloring, the piece is dipped in glaze. Glaze is a glass-like layer applied to ceramics, making them impermeable to liquids. There are different types of glazes, such as glossy or matte.

## **2.5. Completion stage**

The final stage in ceramic production is called finishing. The last step in creating ceramics is firing. The purpose of firing is to melt the glaze material so it adheres firmly to the ceramics. Ceramics must be fired at the appropriate temperature. Typically, for low-temperature glaze, firing is done at 1,000–1,150°C, while for mid-range glaze, firing is done around 1,200–1,250°C. The duration of the firing also depends on the type and condition of the kiln.

## **2.6. Data Collection**

The data collection technique is the most strategic step in research, because the main goal of research is to obtain accurate data, so without knowing the data collection technique, the researcher will not obtain data that meets established standards." Besides painting and making ceramics at the partner's place, students also carry out inventory data collection in the showroom and museum. The data used by the author to gather information for this final report research comes from several sources, as detailed below:

### **2.6.1. Interview Method**

An interview is a conversation with a specific purpose. The conversation is conducted between two parties, the interviewer who asks questions and the interviewee who provides answers. The information obtained from interviews can be used to complement data in preparing internship/work practice reports and assist in collecting information to complete field projects [5].

### 2.6.2. Observation Method

Observation is a daily human activity using the senses as the main tool. In other words, observation is a person's ability to use their senses to observe phenomena. The senses are used to capture observed symptoms. What is captured is then recorded, and the notes are analyzed. The author conducts direct observation at the project location to understand the problems encountered more clearly, resulting in more comprehensive, detailed data and a deeper understanding of the meaning behind every visible behavior.

### 2.6.3. Documentation Method

Documentation activities, in a broad sense, involve collecting, processing, selecting, analyzing, and then evaluating all data, information, and documents related to certain activities, events, or work that are published through electronic or print media and then stored in an orderly and systematic manner.

## 2.7. Techniques

In creating ceramic works, there are various different techniques, and the technique used is adjusted according to the desired artwork. Here are some techniques needed to create ceramics:

a. Coil Technique

The Coil Technique involves shaping clay into a basic form that resembles a twisted rope. To perform this technique, a lump of clay is rolled into coils using both palms. The size and length of each coil are adjusted according to the desired dimensions. The coils are then arranged in a circular manner to create the desired shape, and each layer is pressed together with added water to ensure they adhere.

b. Throwing Technique

To create pottery using the Throwing Technique, a tool such as a potter's wheel or electric throwing device is needed. This technique involves taking a lump of plastic and workable clay and placing it on the wheel at its center. The clay is then pressed with both hands while the wheel spins, shaping the clay into the desired form. The Throwing Technique generally produces round or cylindrical objects.

c. Slab Technique

The Slab Technique is used to create cubic-shaped pottery with flat surfaces. This technique begins with rolling out clay into flat slabs using a rolling pin. Once the slabs are of uniform thickness, they are cut with a knife or wire according to the desired size. After that, the slabs can be shaped into the desired form.

d. Pinching Technique

The Pinching Technique involves creating ceramics by directly pinching the clay with hands. The aim of this technique is to make the clay denser and less prone to flaking, resulting in a more durable final product. The Pinching process can be carried out as follows:

- Take a lump of clay.
- Roll the clay using your thumb while shaping it into the desired form.
- Smooth the surface using a brush or sponge.

e. Casting Technique

The Casting Technique is used to create pottery by using a mold. The clay used for this technique is liquid clay. The molds are typically made from gypsum, which absorbs water quickly, allowing the clay to dry faster.

f. Pressing Technique

The Pressing Technique is performed by pressing clay into a mold that is shaped accordingly. This technique is used to achieve results quickly [6].

## 2.8. Tools and Materials

The process of creating artwork naturally requires tools and media, and for each piece of work created, the process and method of making it are not the same or may differ. For example, making ceramics using the throwing technique involves shaping the clay from scratch on a potter's wheel. The second method involves casting molds with clay using pre-made gypsum molds. In both processes, the tools and materials used are different. For the throwing process, the tools and materials is solid clay, plywood, an electric wheel, needles, measuring tools, water, sponges, a silicon rib, and string. For the mold-casting process, the tools and materials is liquid clay, containers, gypsum molds, pipes, sponges, and a spray gun.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1. Results

#### 3.1.1. Sea Life



**Figure 2. Sea Life**  
[Source: Ivana Gabriella Halim, 2024]

Media: Ceramics

Size: 16,5 x 2,3 cm/ 16 x 2,2 cm/ 19 x 2,2 cm/ 15,5 x 4 cm/ 17 x 2,3 cm

Year: 2024

Description of work:

The first artwork is titled "Sea Life," inspired by the beautiful life beneath the sea. I paint various creatures that live in the sea, especially fish. All of my works have a nature theme, and in this first piece, the focus is on fish. Fish themselves symbolize success, and just as fish continuously swim, if we want to progress, we must remain calm to achieve that success.

Explanation of the objects in the work:

This piece features five paintings on ceramic media, with the artist using concave surfaces and round, asymmetrical shapes. The dominant color in this work is blue, which for me symbolizes tranquility. I believe that tranquility is essential before engaging in the process of creating a work of art, as it allows ideas to emerge.

### 3.1.2. Hibiscus Tiliaceus



**Figure 2.** Hibiscus Tiliaceus  
[Source: Ivana Gabriella Halim, 2024]

Media: Ceramics

Size: 30 x 3,5 cm/ 18 x 17 cm/ 11 x 6 cm

Year: 2024

Description of work:

The second artwork is titled "Hibiscus Tiliaceus." This piece illustrates that nature provides humans with a source of inspiration to continue progressing in order to achieve results.

Explanation of the objects in the work:

This concept is inspired by the Waru leaf. The texture of the leaf in this artwork is created using real leaves, making the texture appear natural. The color used is a softer sage green. The surface used in this piece is symmetrical, with curved shapes to make it resemble a leaf. I also added texture, featuring raised lines that resemble the veins of a leaf.

### 3.1.3. Stone



**Figure 3.** Stone  
[Source: Ivana Gabriella Halim, 2024]

Media: Ceramics

Size: 26 x 3,2 cm/ 17,5 x 3,5 cm/ 10,5 x 4,2 cm/ 10,5 x 12 cm/ 5 x 17 x 1,8 cm

Year: 2024

**Description of work:**

This final piece resembles a stone with a natural texture, and its shape can continuously change with the shifts in weather and nature.

**Explanation of the objects in the work:**

This piece features five paintings on ceramic media. The color in this piece is gray, symbolizing seriousness. In life, seriousness is required to achieve results through the process. The shapes created are very diverse, primarily resembling shells, along with decorative forms of lizards applied to the ceramic surface. This process was done to fill the ceramic surface, making it both interesting and artistic.

**4. CONCLUSION**

The author produces 3 sets artworks, the artwork was created by applying several techniques, including painting, dipping, and spraying. All of these techniques were applied to ceramic tableware. The visual representation of this artwork is inspired by natural elements found in the surroundings of human life. The internship/work practice activities of the MBKM program at Tanteri Ceramics, which lasted for a full 16 weeks, provided students with the opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills, and new technologies that are very beneficial as guidance and experience before entering the workforce. First, the knowledge gained includes the process of creating ceramic tableware, from design planning and design creation to coloring and firing processes. Second, students skills were greatly developed during this internship. They improved their communication, built cohesive teamwork, and contributed to the creation of beautiful ceramics. Third, in terms of technological advancements, students were exposed to modern and sophisticated tools. They gained extensive experience with clay-making machines, clay-forming machines, tools for coloring bisque, and bisque firing machines, resulting in usable ceramics. Students also learned about the product development processes for ceramics within the factory. Fourth, armed with experience, the transfer of knowledge, skills, and technological advancements acquired, students are able to create various tableware products using different techniques of production and coloring, leading to more diverse and varied products.

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