



# Autumn & Mother's Day Newsletter 2024

Autumn is such a wonderful time of year at Sandra's Ceramics Studio. We begin to appreciate the cooler temperatures as we start to fire up the kilns in preparation for upcoming events, and projects that begin as simple ideas soon burst into reality. It's also an inspiring time of year as our creative juices flow while we witness the changing hues in the trees & the shedding of their leaves to make way for new growth in the seasons to come.

In this seasons' newsletter we will be focusing on large plates & serving platters. These particular platters have been chosen to illustrate a vast array of techniques which will be explained in brief alongside the creations. The platters selected have a distinctly Mediterranean feel which you will notice not only by the techniques used, but also the patterns as well as the colour palettes adopted.

## Underglaze...

The platters featured here all began in their raw clay state i.e. greenware from slip cast molds. One-stroke underglaze colour was applied in the patterns you see. Some of them layered as in plate number 4.

Banding techniques were utilized in three out of the five plates, namely, numbers 2, 3 & 4. Plate number 1 was an adapted pattern that was partially traced with clay carbon & then the rest of the design was free handed to suit the size of the plate.

Plate number 5 is an absolute relic! It is one of the first platters I (Sandra) ever painted. 🤯 It always makes me smile when I see this design. It was a free hand exercise incorporating shading & plenty of outlining. The bright colours were a dominant theme at the time. From humble beginnings, I think my skills have somewhat improved. 🙏



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## Majolica...

These three platters were created using the Majolica technique which reached Italy in the 15th century. The technique was first developed by the Assyrians in the 8th century.

Typically, Majolica pieces begin with a bisque fired form that is coated in unfired white glaze. Here all of the painting occurs on top of the glaze. In our examples one-stroke underglazes have been used to create the designs & then the pieces are glaze fired ready for use.



## Carving & Sgraffito...

Two different types of carving techniques were used to create the platter in picture 1. Clay carving which refers to creating a 3D effect with the use of vinegar was employed. The vinegar, diluted with water wears away the clay through gentle rubbing. And then further carving using a stylus & sgraffito tools were used to create the additional background patterning.

Plate number 2 began as a plain banded plate using teal one-stroke underglaze. The design was then penciled over the top & a sgraffito tool was used to carve into the plate revealing the raw white clay below. Both Mum & I love the carving & sgraffito techniques & employ them in our work wherever we can. They are both very therapeutic & relaxing techniques for the mind. Sadly, they are a bit rough on your hands, but the results are extremely fulfilling.



## Happy Mother's Day

To all of the wonderful Mums out there, we wish you a very Happy Mother's Day! We hope you have a fantastic day! ❤️

It is with immense gratitude that I acknowledge my amazing Mother on this special day. It is an exceptional honour & privilege to work with my Mum, Maria at Sandra's Ceramics Studio creating wonderful functional & keepsake pieces for you all. We hope that you continue to enjoy our work & that some of them are passed onto the next generations to come.

If you are interested in any of the pieces shown here, please call or send us an email. Unfortunately, these items are not available on the website as they can be difficult & risky to post. These are also one-of-a-kind pieces that are not easy to replicate.

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