



Bunnies for the Birds

Cheerful rabbits help out their feathered friends

by Tricia Hardy

Step 1: Clean greenware, adding back any detail as needed.

Step 2: Apply colors to the big rabbit as follows: Apply one coat of Natural to the rabbit's body. Blend White on the belly, over the eyes, and around the nose, and paint two to three coats on the tail. Sumi blend Tangerine Peel on the cheeks and inside the ears, then paint two to three coats of Tangerine Peel on the nose and feet pads. Paint the iris of the rabbit's eyes Cerulean Blue. The pupils of the eyes are Black with a White highlight (comma stroke and dot). Add eyelashes in Black.

Step 3: On the small rabbit, apply one coat of White, with two to three coats on the tail. Just as you did for the large rabbit, sumi blend Tangerine Peel on the cheeks and inside the ears, then paint two to three coats of Tangerine Peel on the nose and feet pads. Paint the iris of the rabbit's eyes Cerulean Blue. The pupils of the eyes are Black with a White highlight (comma stroke and dot). Add eyelashes in Black.

Step 4: Apply one good coat of Cerulean Blue to the large rabbit's jacket and paint the trim Bright Violet. Reverse the colors for the small rabbit's jacket. Apply one coat of Key Lime to the large rabbit's scarf, add Bright Violet lines, then apply a wash of Key Lime over it all.

Step 5: Apply one coat of Burnt Sienna to the length of the pole, then blend in some Natural and paint the cut end of the pole.

Step 6: Apply two coats of Sunflowers to the walls of the birdhouse. Paint four coats of Red Geranium to the birdhouse roof and area under the opening. The shutters are Key Lime with Bright Violet trim.

Sumi Shading

Courtesy of Paula McCoy, Colors for Earth

Fully load a sumi brush with water and tip into shadow color just on the very tip of the brush. Sit the tip of the brush down by applying pressure which will flatten the bristles out and allow the color to bleed back into the water, allowing the color underneath the shading to show through and adding the darker color in the area that you want to be the darkest. By moving the brush from right to left (back and forth) while sitting the brush down, you will be able to blend the color to achieve a gradual color change. You may need to repeat this step multiple times to achieve a darker value.

Step 7: Apply one good coat of Green Leaf to the leaves, then sumi shade the centers with Mountain Pine.

Step 8: Each flower gets one coat of Aqua Splash. Then sumi blend Deep Cranberry in the center of each petal and paint the trim outside with one to two coats of Deep Cranberry. Paint the button in the center with Sunflowers. Add White dots randomly to the flowers.

Step 9: Allow the piece to dry and fire to cone 04.

Step 10: Wipe any dust from the piece. Antique using one coat of Burnt Umber. Wipe back the piece with a sponge and water, rinsing the sponge often so that you're not just moving color around. Touch up any colors as needed.

Step 11: Paint two coats of Crystal Clear Glaze on the birdhouse (not the pole); the eyes, noses, and mouths of the rabbits; and the center buttons of the flowers. Apply two smooth coats of Matt Medium just to the flower petals.

Step 12: Stilt and fire to cone 06.



Objectives

- Discover the versatility of fired colors by using them to block in areas and complete antique shading to bring out details.
- Work with mold-cast designs.
- Create special shading effects using a sumi brush.
- Use matt and gloss glazes on the same shape.

Advanced Methods

Try making small clay flowers by hand to adorn the item. *FAC*

About the Artist: Award-winning ceramic artist Tricia Hardy and her husband run Mad Ceramics Studio in Mocksville, N.C. She also teaches ceramics at Ellis Park in Spencer, N.C. Find out more at www.madceramics.com and www.horseramics.com

Sources

Colors for Earth: www.colorsforearth.com

Riverview Molds: www.riverviewmolds.com

Materials

Mold or Ware by Riverview
1701 Bunny w/Birdhouse

Colors by Colors for Earth

CC101 Black
CC102 White
CC111 Red Geranium
CC115 Tangerine Peel
CC123 Sunflowers
CC132 Deep Cranberry
CC137 Bright Violet
CC151 Cerulean Blue
CC160 Key Lime
CC161 Green Leaf
CC164 Mountain Pine
CC180 Burnt Umber
CC182 Natural
CC186 Burnt Sienna
CG900 Crystal Clear Glaze
CS680 Burnt Umber
CSP03 Matt Medium
LE003 Aqua Splash

Brushes & Tools

Large and small sumi brushes
Liner brush
Sponge
Water bowl