

# Duncan Colorworks

## Clowning Around Ceramic Art Lesson Plan



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# *Duncan* Clowning Around - - Ceramic Art Lesson Plan

**Grade Level:** K-8

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## **Introduction:**

The clown is a comedian in a circus. His make-up and costume are his personal trademark and no other clown may dress or make up in exactly the same way. The present day circus clown has his prototype from the court jester of the Middle Ages. Clowns in early American circuses were talking and singing comedians. When circuses expanded their arenas to three rings, clowns were relegated to straight pantomime. They had reached their peak as comics. The clowns served as comic relief between the tense performances of the animals and the skilled performers. Emotions played a large part of the clown's identity. Some of the famous clowns were Felix Adler the white-faced clown, Otto Griebling adopted a hobo-type, Emmett Kelly became famous for his sad-faced tramp. Long ago, P.T. Barnum remarked, "Clowns are pegs used to hang circuses on."

## **Educational Objectives:**

This lesson provides opportunities for students to:

- Learn how to make different shapes in clay to make facial expressions.
- Learn how to attach fired clay parts to a bisque tile to make a clown face.
- Or learn how to create an original clown from the hand-built face.

## **References:**

Fun and Games with Clowns <http://www.meddybemps.com/9.431.html>  
Circus Smirkus <http://www.circusmirkus.org/>  
Chuckles' Kids <http://www.clownhotline.com/kidspage.htm>

## **Duncan Materials:**

For 30 Students

## **Bisque/Clay:**

- DM 60A- 31/4" white bisque tile or 30 lbs of white low-fire clay

## **Concepts™ Underglaze for Bisque:**

- CN 501 Neon Yellow
- CN 502 Neon Blue
- CN 504 Neon Orange
- CN 505 Neon Green
- CN 506 Neon Coral
- CN 221 Light Blush
- CN 253 Black

## **Envision™ Clear Brush-On Glaze:**

- IN 1001



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### Brushes/Tools:

- SB 806- #6 Round
- SB 807- #6 Fan Glaze
- SB 820- #1 Liner
- TL 401- Cleanup Tool

### Miscellaneous Materials:

- Garlic press or clay press
- Board to roll out clay
- Rolling pin
- Short bamboo skewers for cutting clay and detailing
- Water containers
- Disposable plates to use as palettes

### Step-by-Step:

1. Flatten the clay so that clay can be rolled flat to 1/8<sup>th</sup> thickness.  
Use a garlic press or clay pres to push clay through for hair.
2. Make round balls for the eyes and nose. Indent your thumb in the back of the ball. This will be the side that will be placed on the tile.
3. Lips can be made by rolling clay into a coil and shaping it for the mouth, or roll out a piece of clay and cut out a shape.
4. Once these shapes are completed and smoothed with a tiny bit of water and your finger, attach them by scoring the piece and use a little clay slip. The eyes and nose must have an air vent (a hole) under the pieces through the back of the face.
5. Now you can dress your clown with a hat, ribbon, ears, a collar or ruffle. Be creative!!
6. The clay face will have to dry flat until the clay is completely dry. You can test the dryness of the clay by touching the clay to your face. If it is cold and not light in color it is still wet and will explode in the kiln when fired.
7. Fire to cone 04, firing them flat on the shelf.
8. Decorate with Concepts. Use at least two coats of the colors to give bright and intense colors.
9. Brush on IN 1001 Clear glaze. Fire to cone 06.

### Project Closure:

#### Language Arts connection and project closure

- Write and illustrate a brief description of this project, include detailed descriptions of the materials used and what happened during this project.

National Standards for the Arts:

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/ArtsStandards.html>

<http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/Standard.asp?SubjectID=13>

State Standards:

<http://edstandards.org/Standards.html>

Or refer to the Dept. of Education for a specific state.

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