

Thais Antunes – Brazil - Notes by Breda Cash

Instructions for working with Thais' special products on Porcelain.

Thais' Blue Water based medium – This is an open medium which burns off in a low temperature range. It is not like other WBM's currently available. Use of this medium allows for a dense [not thick] application of paint which means that a work can be completed in one fire.

You can mix it with any powdered porcelain paint, then store it in an air tight container. A little more of T's WBM may be added to moisten the mixture for painting after long storage.

This product is also used to mix **Thais' White Relief Powder**. No other product is suitable.

Caution – this product can remove Nail Varnish and damage commercially painted surfaces.

Thais' White Relief Powder – This is specifically formulated to hold **Thais' Granulates** in position during firing.

Mix to a dry consistency with **Thais' Blue Water Based Medium**. Powder colour may be added to mixture, up to 10% of volume.

Work on small areas at a time and gently press **Thais' Granulates** for gold and silver **Brocates** [Brocades] into the soft mixture. Continue with this process until you have covered the desired area.

The application appears 'high' but will soften down during firing to 830 deg Centigrade. Glass normally slumps at 720 degrees Centigrade, therefore this product is different.

After firing the product can be Gilded and fired at a lower temperature. This is suitable for tiles, plates & vases.

Tiles should be fired flat at 830 deg Centigrade so that the larger Granulates do not move.

Thais' Granulates- White Thin Metallic Granulates & Transparent Thin Granulates are the most popular, there are many other Metallic colours for sale.

N.B. Thais' White Thin Granulates are always used **first**.

These are applied to your still wet [with **Thais' Water Based Medium**] paint mix – for a One Fire Technique. Alternatively they can be applied on a second fire.

To apply, place a plastic sheet under your Porcelain to catch any stray granulates so that you can return them to their correct container for later use.

Only use one type of granulate at a time, cover immediately and set aside, so that you do not mix your product.

Apply freely and shake over your painted piece. You can reapply where it is too thin.

Then tilt your piece to allow unsecured granulates to fall onto the plastic sheet. Return the unused granulates to their correct container before moving onto the next step.

Thais' Brocates [Brocades] & Fantasy Granulates

Both type of granulate should be used sparingly for effect, eg. centre of flower, therefore they should be fired flat at 830 degrees Centigrade.

Thais' Water Drops

These should be applied **last** to a specially selected place on your work.

They must be fired flat to 830 degrees Centigrade with the piece placed higher in the kiln than the lowest element.

Textures are nothing without a good painting, they are an embellishment.

Drawing

A simple line drawing to hold shape & give orientation is best. Thais chooses to use an "Aquerelle" pencil by Stabilo or scribble on the back of the copy and trace the design.

You can also use Biro or a Felt tipped pen which fires out without leaving a mark.³

Brushes

The brushes must be cleaned of any other mediums [eg. Oils] before use. **Thais' Water Based Medium** is used to condition brushes. If the brush hairs separate during use, then your brush is dry and requires reconditioning. Water is used to clean the brush between colours, the brush is dried on tissue and reconditioned again.

Synthetic Pointer brush – This will be used to lift-off granulates in awkward areas.

Dry soft brush – Used to blend the harsh edges left by the use of the Wipe Out Tool. Build-up of thick paint will contribute to that paint chipping-off.