

## **Beginner's Enamelling at Saba Jewellery**

This is a one day, 10am-5pm, introduction to using powdered vitreous (kiln-fired) enamels on copper sheet.

### **Cost**

The cost is €125 for the day and that includes materials.

### **Morning**

#### **Introduction to Enamels**

Their history, what they are made from, types of metals that can be used, techniques for preparing metals, using a kiln for firing, safety in the workshop, combining colours, layering and the different applications of enamel. We'll look at samples in the morning and the equipment we'll be using.

#### **How To!**

With enamelling, the preparation is the time-consuming and most important thing. It is worth taking time to think about colours and shapes and to try to think ahead (but don't worry about all of this, you'll see what I meant - so nobody should panic!). The actual firing time is really fast: 2 or 3 minutes in the kiln and then the time for piece to cool down. It is very different from ceramics in that regard and because we use sheet copper in this class, the materials are very different to pottery and ceramics also.

#### **What We'll Make**

We'll start with a square copper "tile". Depending on the size of the piece we work on, we'll be using anything from 0.8mm up to 1.2mm thick sheet. We'll use both opaque and transparent enamels and also combine them. This first project is so that students can see how to use the tiles and what to expect when they do several firings with several different colours. When the first tile is finished we will stop for a brief lunch as everyone wants to get working on a second tile as their ideas start to flood in and they feel more confident.

We use different sifters, stencils and sgraffito techniques.

I almost always use leaded enamels (and I'll have surgical masks for everyone if they feel they want to wear one). We'll may combine some of the leaded enamels with unleaded enamels because the effects can be lovely but this will be limited because it can get confusing for people as there is so much to take in...

### **Afternoon**

Students can continue to work on 3" and 4" tiles or move onto making a simple pendant or earrings (or both if there is time). We will also have the opportunity to use the hydraulic press if that is of interest: it is a press that exerts 20 tonnes of pressure so we can use it to

dome tiles using different dies to get 3D effects. We can create a beetle, a little person or a small animal.

At the end of the day you'll have several pieces to bring home that you can hang on a wall or wear.

#### **4.30pm-5pm**

At around 4.30 we'll do our last firing and then clean up. I'd like us all to put our enamelled pieces on the table and take some time to discuss them.

#### **Other Info...and Workshop Rules!**

1. Long hair must be tied back and no long flapping sleeves
2. No open-toed shoes.
3. Please don't wear hairspray.
4. Bring with you an apron or old shirt - it isn't necessary but enamel powder is very fine so whatever you wear will need to be washed afterwards.
5. Bring a notebook if you want to make some notes because you'll forget everything the moment you walk out the door. Enamelling on copper isn't complicated but it is a new thing for all of you and can be hard to get your head around. Also, feel free to bring sketches and ideas too - I can't promise they will be achievable but you'll see how enamelling works and probably be able to make some modifications. I have a scanner, computer and printer here so we can adjust any sizes etc for stencils.
6. There is a sandwich place just around the corner which is great for lunch and anyone can stop and make a cup of tea/coffee and take a break any time they wan throughout the day. I'll supply plenty of biscuit and have lots of enamelling books that people can browse through.

**Address and Parking:** SABA, Unit 1Q, KCR Estate, Kimmage, Dublin 12 and here is the link to a map:

<https://www.google.ie/maps/place/Kcr+Estate,+Ravensdale+Park,+Kimmage,+Dublin+12/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x48670c76e9fc0d03:0x8f3189fab9822b27?sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi9g6n8y5PZAhVoC8AKHcPUBI4Q8gEIKDAA>

I'm very close to the M50.

There is parking in the estate and also out on the street.

If you have any questions please email (info@saba.ie) or call (083 1233 158)