

# Painted Clay

By [Melissa Pierce Murray](#).

This post was inspired by the Japanese art of dorondongo, where mud and dirt are shaped and buffed into highly polished spheres. We made clay spheres and other simple forms in clay, and once dry, painted them with ink and acrylic. This lesson was run in two sessions, the first to shape the clay, and the second to paint the forms once dry.



Painted Clay Spheres

## Smooth Clay Surfaces

We began by rolling and shaping the clay into balls in our hands. To create a even surface, we lightly rolled the spheres

on the edge of a glass. We smoothed the surface by putting a small amount of oil on our hand to gently rubbing. This step is not necessary, but using oil rather than water makes a sleek surface, which is good for painting delicate designs. Rest the sphere on a pillow made by scrunching up newspaper, paper towel, or resting on a sponge, otherwise it will end up with a flat spot. Leave the clay to dry.

Any type of clay can be used: we used plain buff clay. As we did not intend to fire the clay, we did not have to hollow the forms.

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