

Acrylics: Clay Pots Characters

Materials

Small clay pot(s)
Acrylic paints: white, red, blue, yellow
Golden's GAC 800,
Fine-tipped brush for acrylic paint

Preparation

If the clay pot is to be used for planting at any time in the future, the inside must be sealed to prevent water from soaking through and damaging the paint layer.

Use Golden GAC 800 (clear sealing polymer) diluted 20% with water, coat pot generously inside and leave to dry for 3 to 4 hours.

Sealing the outside surface is also recommended. It will make paint film stronger and the colours will appear more brilliant as the paint will not soak into the clay. Be aware that the terra cotta will darken permanently once it is sealed. Do some tests on clay before you take these steps so you know what to expect.

Procedure

1. Paint directly on the pot

Once the surface is sealed you can paint acrylic on directly. Since many acrylics are translucent, you may wish to prime the outside of the pot with gesso so that the colours appear their brightest.

2. Finish the pot

To preserve your artwork (especially for outdoor use) it is best to varnish it with an acrylic varnish such as Tri-Art Top Coat to provide strong UVLS protection and to create a more finished look to your piece. If the pot is purely decorative or if budget is a concern but longevity is not, you may choose not to varnish.

If the pot to be painted is already glazed, you may wish to use the Pebeo Porcelaine paints instead of acrylics. Porcelaine 150 can be oven-baked and is dish-washer and food safe.

