

## **RAKU CLASS MATERIALS, POCOSIN, FALL, 2022**

JEAN TUDOR

**Usual enameling tools:** such as kiln, kiln tools (trivets, firing fork trivet racks, heat resistance gloves), sifters, etc. Raku can be done with a torch also, though the final firing is tricky. A face mask is a good idea if you are sensitive to smoke.

### **Enamels:**

For setting up the base for raku, we will use whatever enamels you want. I will explain any restrictions when we are in class. Opaque enamels do not generally give off their metallic oxides, which is good for design control.

Here is a list of both **lead-free and lead-bearing transparent Thompson enamels** that do release their metal oxides. Try Vicki at Schlaifer, or e-enamels.com for the lead-bearing.

**Lead-free:** Copper: 2305 Nile, 2335 peacock, 2430 beryl, 2435 turquoise.

Manganese: 2140 russet, 2190 chestnut

**Lead-bearing:** Copper: 387 midnight blue, 657 Tyrolian, 659 turquoise, 277 delft, 200 aqua.

Manganese: 834 smoke gray.

**Metals:** Copper:

Size will depend first of all on the size of the firing chamber. Ideal sizes for this class are 3"x3" to 6"x6". They can be irregular, square, circular, oblong—whatever. If you have access to a metals outlet and can cut your own pieces, ask to look in their cut-off bin. Use 18, 19, or 20ga.

Pre-enamelled steel (white or black board).

**Other Materials:**

A sheet of gold foil and/or gold leaf.

Silver nitrate crystals (buy the smallest amount you can—half an ounce will be more than enough). A small brush with soft hairs for applying the silver nitrate.

Specific raku firing materials and tools:

A small garbage can or other fireproof container with a well-fitting lid. If working with small (jewelry) pieces, a small can or sauce pan with a well-fitting lid.

Wet newspaper—a 2”-4” stack, folded the way it comes. Pine needles (try the garden stores if it’s not native in your area). Shredded dry paper (not treated shiny paper). Dried leaves.

Any questions at all: call or write:

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