Worksheet: underglaze cobalt decoration

Materials and tools: Cobalt colour, brushes, sketches, biscuit-fired clay (a vase, plate etc.)

Introductions:

Cobalt oxide is the ceramic colour which is applied either underglaze on the biscuit- fired clay and after fixation with re-firing, glaze and glost fire at 1400°C or first-fired clay and glost fire at 1200-1400°C. After glost firing the typical cobalt-blue colour shows through the glaze. Lines are blured with soft contours.

Instructions

1. Cobalt preparation: the solid colour is watered down with the solvent and carefully mixed on the glass palette.
2. Application can be done with:
   1. Classical brushes - various "flat" strokes or prints, shading
   2. Calligraphy brushes - weak strokes, lines, shading
   3. Sponge - application of surfaces, or prints of "structures"
   4. Strings, curtains ...
3. It is necessary to re-fire the clay with the cobalt paint before glazing because it can be smudged.



After glazing and glost firing,

