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Developement and Application of a Clay Mixing Technique for Color Shading

— A Proposal for Pottery Decoration —

Akihiko Yanagihara

Among techniques of pottery decorations, there exists many types of color shading or "Frambé" techniques. This newly developed technique, named "Sairen" by the author, is quite different from those existing techniques. The essential of "Sairen" is to mix clay bodies of different colors so that the gradual change of the mixing ratio will cause intentional and smooth color shading off within the clay body. The effect of "Sairen" resembles to that of spray techniques, however, shading effect of "Sairen" is much smoother. The essential difference between the two is that the clay body itself is shaded off by "Sairen" whereas only surface of the body is shaded off by spraying. Intentional multi-color shading is possible by the former whereas it is almost impossible by the latter.

The principle of the technique is shown in Fig.1. A practical method of mixing is shown in Fig.2.

The application of "Sairen" will be most effective when used with different types of inlay techniques, either as subjective patterns or as backgrounds of inlaid objects. Fig.4 and Fig.5 show the principle and the practical method of one of the inlay techniques. The results are shown in photos 9~13.