

Danielle Martin – Painting on porcelain

Do you want to develop your artistic talents and escape from daily stress?

Painting on china can bring you pleasure and relaxation.

Have a good time and enjoy surfing this website.

Porcelain

Porcelain or china is a ceramic material made of clay, kaolin, feldspath and quartz. It was discovered by the Chinese, who kept it a trade secret for centuries.

This material is first fashioned, then fired at 1300°C. It is then glazed and fired again. Finally the porcelain is ready to be painted.

The photograph below shows how this material is translucent.

The colours we use are vitrifiable as well as translucent. They are made of metallic oxides. These colours are fired at about 820°C.

Dry paint powders are mixed with a medium, usually pine oil or copaiba balsam.

The main themes are flowers, landscapes, animals and characters, but abstract and modern compositions are also used.

However, cheerfulness and lightness are encouraged, and heaviness and vulgarity avoided.

Who am I ?

I live in Switzerland, in Echichens, a tiny village above Morges, a small town near Lausanne. I went to the College in Nyon until 16 as my parents were living nearby.

After college, I went to a secretarial school, which was my father's wish but not mine. I was 18 when at last I could go to the Arts et Métiers School in Vevey for four years and realize my wish to become a decorator.

After working for several years, I married, and had two children...

In 1982, I opened a workshop for painting on china. Every day, people interested in china painting come for courses.

I am happy with this work as I like meeting people of all ages and backgrounds.

Individual courses

An important place on the syllabus is given to collective courses that bring a lot of personal enrichment, but individual courses are also available and given on a mutually agreed timetable. If you are interested, please click on "contact".

Collective courses

Bringing together a maximum of 6 people for collective courses, allows everybody to get individual attention.

Moreover, interaction between participants encourages creativity and accelerates the acquisition of knowledge through sharing experiences.

Take time to surf this site and if any of your questions are not answered, you are welcome to ask them, without obligation, by clicking on "contact".

Program

Most people learning to paint on porcelain are, after the first few lessons, very happy when they see the results they have obtained.

Naturally, you must have some empathy for decorative arts, either for classical or modern styles. Equally, progress will be proportional to the time devoted to training and practice. With a good teacher and thanks to the good comradeship which is the rule during the courses, a motivated person will discover in her or himself, an unsuspected artistic potential.

Soon, you will feel the beneficial effects of it in all fields, including physical, mental or even psychic. It's a whole program, isn't it?

With a maximum of 6 people taking part in the collective courses I am able to teach on an individual basis, according to each student's possibilities and ideas. If you are interested, you can ask for more information by clicking on "contact".

Collective courses in Echichens - Time table

<u>Days</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Monday	20h.-22h.	Every two weeks
Tuesday	09h.-11h.	Every week
Tuesday	14h-16h.	Every week
Tuesday	16h.15-18h.15	Every two weeks
Thursday	14h.16h.	Every week
Friday	13h.30-16h.30	Once every month

If you are interested, please, ask for the exact date by clicking on "contact".

Price list

Prices are as follows:

<i>Lesson every week</i>	<i>CHF 24.00</i>
<i>Lesson twice a month</i>	<i>CHF 26.00</i>

These lessons are sold by subscription. Each subscription includes from 8 to 13 lessons, depending on the dates of school holidays and are payable in advance.

Missed courses are not refunded but can be rescheduled within the work plan.

The length of each lesson is 2 hours and the number of the participants is limited to 6 people.

Creations and orders

Do you want to give a special gift for an important occasion such as a wedding or a birthday, or as a keepsake or an acknowledgement? Or do you simply desire a special piece which would be nice in your home?

You can order a piece which will be done in accordance with your instructions, in a modern or classical style. A text or a poem can be written on the underside of a plate or other object.

To give you an idea of what can be done, you can view the photographs on the pages "classique, moderne, et exemples en photo" on the website. Don't hesitate to get in touch by clicking on "contact".

Amateur artistic pursuits

In the western part of Switzerland, where French is spoken, there is a long tradition of china painting, dating back to the glorious period of the "Manufacture de Nyon".

The company, which operated for 32 years, was started by Jacques Dortu in 1781. During its initial years and the beginning of the following century, the tastes of the high society were greatly influenced by its work.

It was internationally famous. As an example, the wonderful dinner service called "Reine de Naples" was used on the table of the brother-in-law of Napoleon, Murat.

Other motifs not as sumptuous as this one, but poetic and charming, were well known and sought-after. Soon it was considered to be in the best taste for young ladies and girls to learn how to paint on china, as well as learning music or watercolour painting.

In a way, we have inherited all that know-how from these charming old patterns of the first china companies such as Nyon, of course, but also Meissen, Berlin and Paris.

Several other photographs are waiting for you on the page "exemples en photos".

Modern style

A revival...

There is not really a modern style, but for some years, a new wind has been blowing on our small brushes. In fact, after you have been learning and training on classical motifs, you will almost certainly feel bound to try and create your own patterns. If you aren't really creative yourself, you can find models more suitable to today's tastes.

The new models or subjects are more fashionable, sometimes more simple, but not always...

Compared with music, modern styles are to classical styles, a little like jazz is to classical music. But you can be sure than most of the best jazz musicians have started by learning a classical base.

Modern china painting is difficult, for you need not only to be really imaginative and creative, but must also research colours, firing and so on...

For some years, some new trends have tended to be flashy. Therefore, one needs to be attentive and stay within the limits of good taste.

If you click on "moderne" you will see some examples of "modern style".

Examples of realizations

On this page, you can look and see what styles you like.

Choose and click on "moderne" or "classique".

And do not hesitate to contact Danielle Martin by clicking on "contact".

Fournitures - Supplies and services

Of course you will need supplies.

At the workshop, you will find porcelain from various origins, colours, brushes of high quality, pencils, tiles, palette-knives, graphite-paper, as well as gold, gold-oils, medium MX54, lavender-oil, soft-oil, etc...

If you need something special, please ask by clicking on "contact".

Actualités -Topicality

On this page, you can see news of the latest courses, for example, last summer's courses, which were very special.

Also, you can find here the dates for the beginning of the next series of courses.

Astuces - Tricks

Here, you can find some hints and advice for the realization of different ideas.

For example, here is how to create a magnificent cobalt blue - very dark and intense.

First, apply a thin coat of blue with a flat brush on the desired area of your piece, then pat this area very gently and lightly with a fine sponge. Dry this with a hairdryer and fire at 800°C. Then apply a second coat a little thicker than the first one. Again, pat gently and quickly with the sponge. Dry and then fire at 820°C. Always proceed with two firings.

For this colour, the most interesting is the "cobalt blue" of Heraeus. I recommend this method for all dark colours such as Empire green, deep purple, etc.

Cuisson – Firing

An indispensable operation, firing porcelain requires the use of a special oven, which consumes a lot of electricity. The firing process requires precise timing and continuous care.

If the pieces have been bought here, three firings are available at no extra cost.

For other pieces, prices will be invoiced in accordance with their volume and particularly with their quality. In fact, pieces of earthenware, stoneware and sandstone porcelain as well as certain patterns will need more than double the place in the oven. In these last cases, the price doubles.

If you have any questions, click on “contact”.

Contact

Please contact me to give your comments or to subscribe for courses, or to ask whatever questions you have about porcelain.

Plan d'accès – Map

These maps will allow you to find my workshop without any problem.

Thank you very much for reading these pages. I hope you have enjoyed them and I look forward to hearing from you.

*Danielle Martin
Peintre sur porcelaine, 10, ch. du Baillon, CH-1112 ECHICHENS*