

# Metals / Kiln-Fired Cloisonné Enamels

## Cloisonné Enamels By Barbara Kruger

Enameling involves the application of powdered, colored, transparent, opalescent or opaque grains of glass to metal using high heat (1350–1550°) in a kiln to form a durable vitreous coating. The colors are achieved by building several thin layers in the cells of a cloisonné design ("cloison" means cell in French).

Cloisonné wires are cut to match the design and placed on the base over flux and fired. Small amounts of enamels are applied within the cells and fired in several layers to achieve the desired colors. The wires are then smoothed down to the enamel surface and fired again to provide a shiny surface.

### TOOLS / EQUIPMENT

Left to right:

- 1 Soldering bench and tools
- 2 Wire, stylus, tweezers, brushes spatulas



### PROCESS

Step-by-step:

Two design ideas, one with colored pencil.

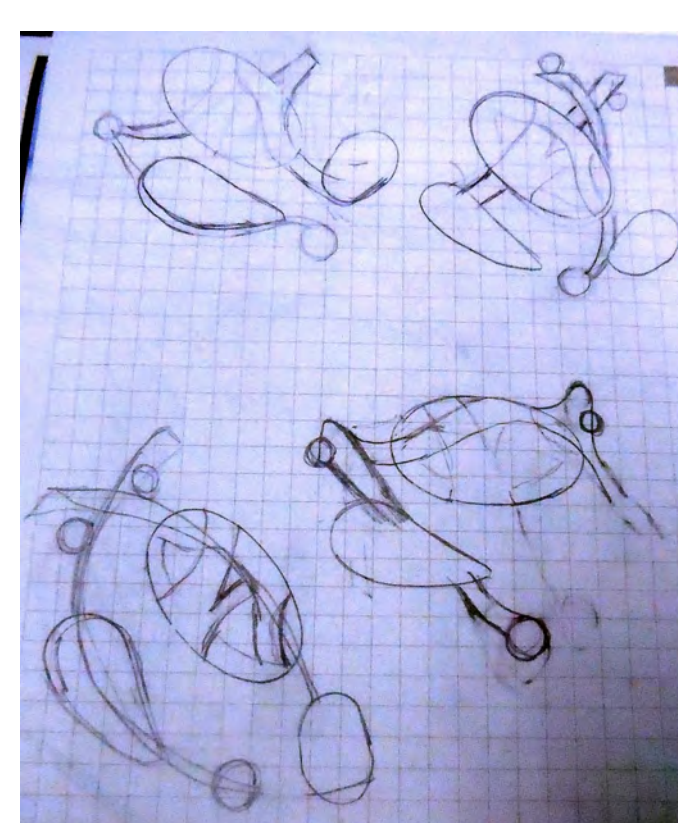
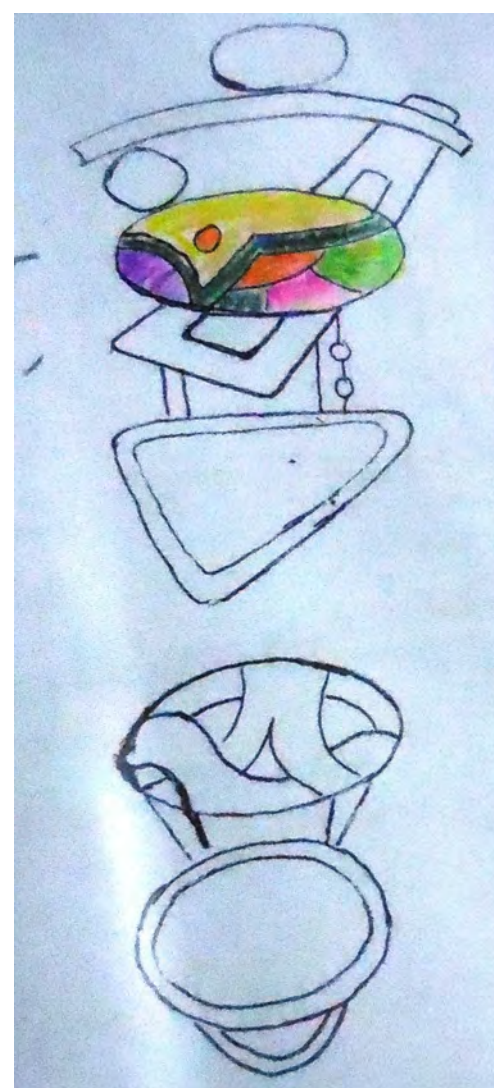
Wires cut to match the design, laid on the base over a layer of flux and fired on wire mesh in the kiln.

A thin layer of enamel ready to fire again. This step is repeated for a transparent blending of colors.

Cloisonné element with smoothed wires.

The final setting redesigned

The separate elements—bezel set stones, silver shapes and cloisonné—were laid out and rearranged to my satisfaction and then soldered in place.



### END RESULTS

Additional examples of cloisonné enamel:

Bezel set enamels on fine silver with stones

Cloisonné in a cast setting

Transparent enamels on textured fine silver

Piece implementing the upper drawing above

