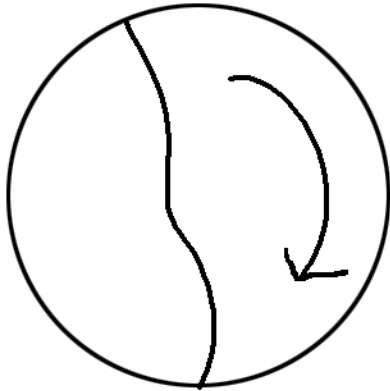


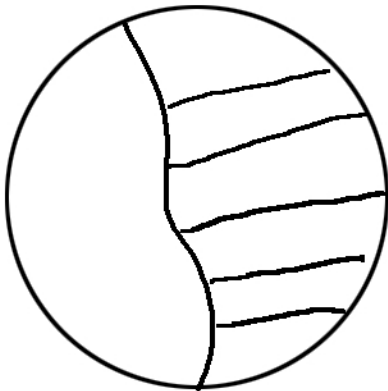
Color Gradations to create movement and flow



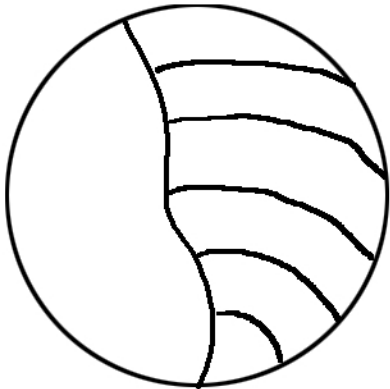
top

bottom

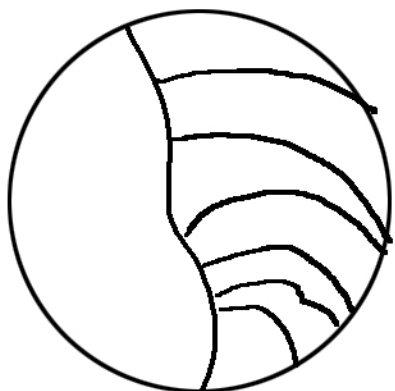
Direction I want my eye to move
following edge/line along outside of shape/cell



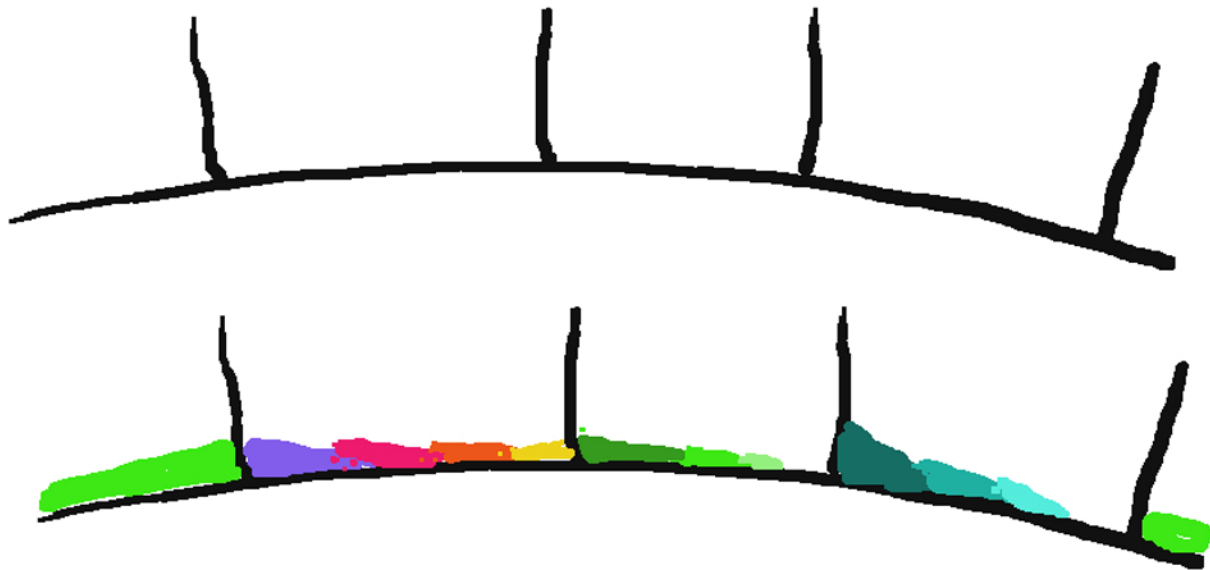
Straight lines, looks banded
and moves eye in a straight line
instead of a curved line



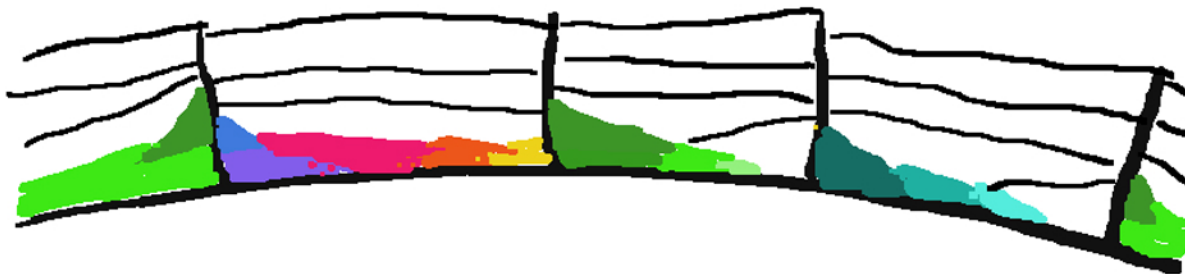
Moves eye in curved direction
but still looks banded because
all edges form parallel lines



Moves eye in curved direction
and looks less banded
because the shapes of the colors are
different widths



opal white
over light
transparent



3 to 4 layers
of lump flux
to height
of wires

Decision Making and Color Layers

Questions to ask while applying colors and color layers

1. How Thick a layer?

This determines "Value" or how dark the color will appear

2. Tapered or Even Layer?

A value question. Do you want the color to appear even or mottled?

3. Grain Size?

The larger the grain, the deeper the color (value) and the more distinct the edge of the grain will be because it will be a darker value at the edge.

4. Layout? Where to put individual colors?

How much of each color?

5. Do you want to create a "Focal Point" where the eye will be drawn?

Contrast creates a focal point.

Contrast is created when darker/lighter colors are placed next to each other.

Contrast is created when colors of different Hues (opposite on the color wheel) are placed next to each other.

6. Edges where colors meet

Crisp edges (use dryer enamel) or blended/salt & pepper (wetter enamel)

How much to salt and pepper the two colors together?

7. How Wet is the enamel?

Is it moving the way you want it to? Is it too dry, too wet, or just right?

As you work in other areas do you need to control the amount of water?

How do I “Get Better?”

1. Learn new Technique or Improve Skills

Improve Skill through repetition

Improve Skill through understanding Principles (time temp relationship, firing stages)

Improve Skill by learning more about materials (grain size, amount of water, chemical reactions)

Improve skill through learning more about how Tools work (tweezers, kiln, polishing)

2. Develop Your Enamel Vocabulary

Enamel “Letters”: one enamel (transparent, opal, opaque) over different metals

Enamel “Words”: two enamels, layered or side by side

Enamel “Sentences”: two or more enamels with “bridging” elements connecting the Words

3. Design

Design Elements: how do enamel elements (wires, foils, enamels) become design elements?

Line, color/hue, value, shapes, texture, pattern

Enamel Principles: how do these elements work together to tell your story?

Repetition, Balance, Unity, Variety, Contrast, Positive/negative spaces, Scale, Pathways

Details and Areas to let your eye rest

Composition: Putting the pieces together to form a whole, tell your story

4. Creativity

Your ability to take a risk, manage your anxiety, think outside the box, try something new

Letting go of your perceived “preciousness” of the work/materials

Asking lots of Questions

Creating “Studies” as learning experiences: “what if?” studies, “how to?” studies

Creating “limitations” to help you focus on the specific Question you want to explore

5. Self Expression

What are you passionate about?

What is your “theme”?

Subject Matter: idea, feeling, experience, person, place, thing, time

Simple or Grand?

Accepting that what you have to say is meaningful. There is no “right” story to tell.

Making Color Tests

It's important to know your colors. Transparents will look different over different backgrounds. Opaques will look the same over any background. Over the years I have made many color tests in all kinds of ways. There is no right way. Figure out what information you want to get and design a test to answer your question.

Opaque Color Tests.

Since the background metal doesn't effect the color, I prefer to simply fire a little dab of opaque color directly onto a piece of mica sheet. Take a small spoon, or even the end of a tweezers, and make a tiny mound of the opaque color. You can take this straight out of the jar or bag. On a 4 inch square piece of mica, i usually can place 16 different mounds of color. Sometimes I will make two mounds of each color; one to glue onto a piece of paper with all of my samples, and the second to glue onto the jar of enamel so that I can tell at a glance what I am picking up.

I place the mica on a firing screen before placing the enamel mounds, as the mounds would start to move if I had to lift the mica onto the firing screen. Place the screen with mica and enamel into the kiln and fire until glossy. After it cools, the enamel color mounds will peel off easily. Use a tweezer to pop them off if they stick. I use Elmer's glue to make little boards of color or to glue onto enamel jar lids.

Transparent Color Tests

Transparent color tests take more work. I like to see what a color looks like over opaque white, silver, and gold. I might also want to know what the color looks like over copper; either direct on copper or over flux.

Color over white and foils;

Step 1: Prepare a copper shape approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter cut shape, flatten, anneal, dome, white opaque on front, counter enamel, scalex

Step 2: Before firing the scalex onto the back, glue ((klyre fyre) foil (silver and gold) onto front. $\frac{3}{4}$ with silver foil, $\frac{1}{4}$ or less with gold; you can use a very small piece of gold as it is expensive. Let glue dry and fire until enamel melts and foils stick in place.

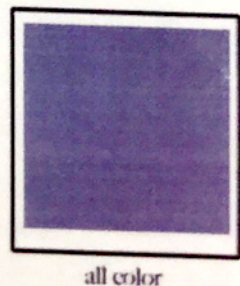
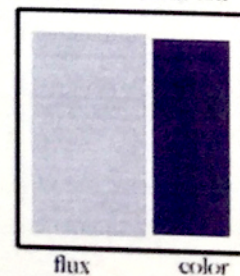
Step 3: Paint a thin layer of flux over half of the piece (the side with all silver foil). Paint transparent color over other half. fire

Step 4. Paint a thin layer of same transparent color over entire piece. Fire

Make a test of many transparent colors (ones you might use together on a piece)

Prepare a shape of either fine silver or copper with silver foil over entire surface. Flux over silver or silver foil and fire.

Place small dabs of the colors on top of the fired surface. Shade from thick to thin if you like to see how the colors will look shaded dark to light. Fire. Pat attention to see if any of the colors fire at a higher temperature than the others.



all color