

ENAMELING TECHNIQUES

Basse-taille - French word meaning "low-cut". The surface of the metal is decorated with a low relief design which can be seen through translucent and transparent enamels.

Champlevé- French for "raised field", where the surface is carved out to form pits in which enamel is fired, leaving the original metal exposed

Cloisonné- French for "cell", where thin wires are applied to form raised barriers, which contain different areas of enamel.

Grisaille- French term meaning "in grey", where a dark, often blue or black transparent enamel is painted on top, building up designs in a monochrome gradient, paler as the thickness of the layer of light color increases.

Limoges - enamel, made at Limoges, France, the most famous European center of vitreous enamel production.
Painted enamel, a design in enamel is painted onto a smooth metal surface.

Grisaille Plique-à-jour- French for "braid letting in daylight" where the enamel is applied in cells, similar to cloisonné, but with no backing, so light can shine through the transparent or translucent enamel. It has a stained-glass like appearance

Ronde bosse- French for "in the round", also known as "encrusted enamel". A 3D type of enameling where a sculptural form or wire, framework is completely or partly
Stenciling, where a stencil is placed over the work and the powdered enamel is sifted over the top. The stencil is removed before firing, the enamel staying in a pattern, slightly raised.

Sgraffito- where an unfired layer of enamel is applied over a previously fired layer of enamel of a contrasting color, and then partly removed with a tool to create the design.

Serigraph, where a silkscreen is used with 60-70in grade mesh.