



Summer Sunflowers

These two projects are based on the same Colour de Verre mold: The 9" Summer Floral Former. The first project is a serving plate. For this project, the floral "blank" is re-fired in a plate slumper. The second project uses the floral blank to produce a beautiful piece of garden art.



Always start by cleaning your mold with a stiff nylon brush. This removes any old kiln wash. (This step can be skipped if the mold is brand new.)

In a small container, mix one part Hotline Primo Primer™ with four parts of clean water. It is important, while using the primer, to keep the mixture stirred. Stirring keeps the product's fine particles

from settling to the container's bottom.

While there are plenty of good shelf primers and kiln washes on the market, Colour de Verre *only* recommends Hotline Primo Primer™ because it forms a very thin coating that doesn't obscure the mold's fine detail and is easy to remove.

Give the mold four to five thin, even coats of Hotline Primo Primer™. Apply the Primo Primer™ with a soft artist's brush. Completely dry each coat before applying the next. (A hair dryer can be used.) The mold should be totally dry before filling, but the mold doesn't need to be pre-fired.

Creating the Summer Sunflower Plate

To give the center part of the blossom character and interest, measure out one to two grams of fine, Black frit. Sprinkle the Black frit evenly into the depressions at the flower's center.

Next, mix 50 grams of fine Pale Amber frit with 50 grams of fine Medium Amber. Transfer about 20 grams of the mixture to a small bowl and add just enough *pate de verre* glue or GlasTac to create a mixture the consistency of wet

beach sand. Add just enough liquid to hold the frit together – no more.

Use a small, stiff artist's brush to create a circular "dam" around the inside edge of the blossom's center.



Once the dam is complete, distribute the remaining dry Amber mixture evenly inside the dam. Don't worry if a little frit falls outside the dam. It will add character.



The next step is to blend the frit that will become the blossom's petals. Mix 150 grams of fine,

Availability

Colour de Verre molds are available at fine glass retailers and many online merchants including our online store, www.colourdeverre.com.

Tools

- ✓ Colour de Verre 9" Summer Floral Former and 7-10" Plate Slump Form
- ✓ Assorted brushes, spoons
- ✓ Digital scale
- ✓ Mixing containers

Supplies

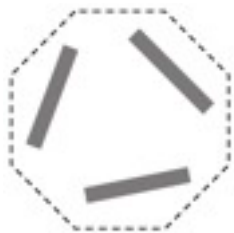
- ✓ Hotline Primo Primer™
- ✓ Fine frits: Medium Amber, Pale Amber, Marigold Opal, Black, and Almond Opal
- ✓ *Pate de Verre* glue or GlasTac

Marigold Opal frit with 350 grams fine Almond Opal frit. This is easily done by combining the two frits in a container, covering it, and shaking it.

Use a small spoon to evenly spread the Marigold/Almond frit into the petals. The finished piece will have much smoother edges if you use a small brush to move the frit away from the top edge of the mold. This “trough” only has to be 1/8-inch wide and deep.



Elevate the Summer Floral Former on kiln furniture according to the instructions included with the mold. If the instructions have misplaced, new instructions can be downloaded from the Colour de Verre website.



Using kiln furniture to elevate the mold.

Fire according to the following schedule:

COE 96* Fusing Schedule

- Seg 1 300°F/hour (165°C/hour) to 1410-1440°F (765-780°C), hold 10 to 20 minutes
- Seg 2 AFAP to 960°F (515°C), no venting, hold 60 minutes
- Seg 3 60°F/hour (35°C/hour) to 700°F (370°C), Off

* For COE 90, increase 25°F (15°C)

Prepare a 7-10" Plate Slump Form with primer. Center the sunflower on the Slump Form. Place the Plate Slump form in the kiln. Elevate the mold with kiln furniture as before.



Fire according to the following schedule:

COE 96* Slumping Schedule

- Seg 1 250°F/hour (140°C/hour) to 1200-1230°F (650-665°C)
- Seg 2 AFAP to 960°F (515°C), no venting, hold 60 minutes
- Seg 3 60°F/hour (35°C/hour) to 700°F (370°C), Off

* For COE 90, increase 25°F (15°C)

Remove the slumped piece from the kiln and sit back and admire your work.

Creating Garden Art

You can also turn your casting into a fun garden art piece.

Use a clear, silicon caulk/adhesive (available at any hardware store) to mount a three-foot piece of rebar to plate's back. Once the adhesive has cured, push the rod into one of your garden's flower beds. Rebar (pronounced “ree-bar”) is available, cut into short lengths, at most home remodeling stores. As it weathers, the rebar rusts to create a beautiful patina.

