

Cloisonné Eyeballs: Human & Dragon Eyes in Enamel

Three online sessions — 2.5 hours each

All levels welcome

Get ready to dive into the fascinating world of cloisonné enameling... one iris at a time! In this three-part online workshop, you'll create luminous human and dragon eyes using classic cloisonné techniques adapted for both fine silver and copper bases with silver foil.

We'll begin by texturing and doming the metal forms, counter-enameling the reverse, and preparing textured fine silver foil to create depth and light. You'll also learn how to make your own cloisonné wire using a rolling mill (the same mill that textures your foil) and how to glue and position those delicate wires in place.

In the second session, we'll move into color- washing enamels, layering thin coats, blending hues for realistic irises, and mastering control so dark colors don't creep beneath your wires. You'll learn how to build transparent and translucent layers for both lifelike eyes and fantasy dragon designs.

The final class focuses on grinding, polishing, and finishing your enamels until they gleam like gemstones.

Each student is encouraged to make several pieces as we go, experimenting with color, scale, and expression.

Materials & Tools

Students will have the **option to purchase a kit** directly from me, which includes:

- All enamel colors used in class
- Cloisonné wires
- Fine silver foil
- Copper discs ready to dome and enamel

The kit is optional. you can use your own supplies or favorite colors if you prefer.

If you'd like to enamel on fine silver instead of copper, you'll need a piece of **22-gauge fine silver sheet**.

Additional tools and materials you'll need:

- Circle punches, metal shears, or saw frame (to cut your discs)
- Dapping set (wooden or metal)

- Kiln and trivets
- Sifters and a fine brush for enamel application
- Klyr-Fire
- Blu-Stick glue
- Tweezers
- Round-nose pliers and extra-fine flush cutters
- Diamond-grit sanding stick
- 600- and 1200-grit polishing papers
- Distilled water