

BOUQUET SERIES

Bouquet, Beneath the Surface and Abstract series Belgin Bozsahin

The range was inspired by 16th century Ottoman and Iznik tiles. I work in fine porcelain and bring my oil painting and illustration skills to create a modern take on exquisite heritage forms. In 'Bouquet', the Iznik decoration remains and I rework the traditional tulip designs, hand painting it on to fine porcelain slabs. I cut the slabs to follow a curvaceous flow that will determine how each unique piece is formed and then glaze and fire the work several times. The time consuming yet fun part is placing the pieces together like a big jigsaw. 'Beneath the Surface' brings layering to soften and blend the traditional Iznik designs. The technique developed when a small box of hand-formed scales was left with me to throw away. Not being able to discard things easily, I created a tiny test piece by embedding these leftover scales into fresh clay. I paint the design on a slab of clay first with underglaze colours before progressing with the embedding. The work is slow dried and fired several times. For 'Abstract', I start by opening a slab where I make a free, linear drawing and allow the work to take shape by embedding pieces intuitively into it. The piece is created in one sitting regardless of how many hours it may take so as to not interrupt its flow.



Inspiration



Beneath the Surface



Interlocking

South Seas Collection and P Maxima series Desiree Latimer for Decored

The inspiration for the South Seas Collection can be traced back to my fascination with mother-of-pearl growing up in one of the tropical islands of the Philippines where beachcombing for shells was a childhood amusement. The P Maxima series is named after the queen of all pearls, *Pinctada maxima*. It began with a yacht designer's specification to cover a surface with interlocking shells in a repeating fleur pattern. The request was to cut the shells in the largest pieces possible and contain the reflective hues, from the pearl's cream to certain colours. We achieved this by choosing only those shells that contain muted golden tones. The result was a surface where the nacre and the natural light danced to create a playful yet subtle shimmer of warm yellow, with shades of pink, green and blue.

