STEP 1: Artisans form the ornament’s shape by hammering sheets of copper into an internal body.

STEP 2: A design is drawn onto the copper form using a pencil. Artisans then begin attaching copper filaments to the ornament. These filaments create small compartments called “cloisons.”

STEP 3: The “cloisons” or cells of the design are filled with the first coat of enamel pastes using miniature spatulas, a different one for each color. When the paste has dried, it is put into a kiln fired at 800 degrees C for a few minutes. The dried paste then melts and solidifies. As the pastes do not resemble the actual colors of the enamel after firing, the process is tedious and requires the artisan to clearly visualize the look of the finished ornament.

STEP 4: A second coat of colors and firing is done. Because the enamels shrink with firing, repeated applications and firings are necessary to fill the cells to overflowing.

STEP 5: A final coat of colors and final firing is finished.

STEP 6: When the enameling is complete, artisans rub the uneven surface with slurry and charcoal until it is smooth and flush with the edges of the cloisons and the copper wires are exposed.

STEP 7: Then, it is buffed and polished with sheep skin.

STEP 8: Finally, the exposed edges of the copper wires and top and bottom of the ornament are electroplated with 24 karat gold to bring the piece to life.

Why Are Our Ornaments So Special?

- Handmade
- 24K Gold Plated
- Unique Gift Item
- Display Year Round
- Durable — Will Not Shatter
- Includes Handmade Silk Covered Gift Box

Kitty Keller Designs

The Cloisonné Process