

April Newsletter

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



I am very excited because I am about to stock the new [Chameleon pens](#) (see picture on the right)â€ they will be available at the beginning of June. Anke Humbert has done an excellent [review](#) of the pens for Polyform (using Sculpey products) explaining that her best results were, surprisingly, on Ultralite. (See Anke's excellent artwork [here](#)) I have used the pens and think the possibilities are endless â€ I think sales of white clay are going to increase! Instant skinner blends here we comeâ€!â€!

On a completely different topic, an for or no reason other than I am doing a demonstration of Kids Clay for Staedtler next week, I thought we might look at clay animals and/or simple sculpture this month. I start with a cute little [kawaii octopus](#) which looks pretty easy to reproduce If you search you will, of course, find many sculptured animals that are made of fondant, but which would be equally well made in polymer clay â€ this [reindeer](#) is an example. [Here](#) there is a plethora of animal tutorials, some very simple to make. There are even couple of videos tutorial if you scroll down the same page

I found a fascinating Far East website [here](#) with lots of very different sculptures. Then there are some crazy creatures here.

We mustnâ€™t forget the influence of our well loved artists. This echidna is inspired by [Christi Friesen](#) And remember Cara Janeâ€™s [sleeping cat](#)? Finally we have the inevitable [pinterest page](#)



Syndee Hold did a presentation for Craftcast on [silk screen making](#) (see picture top left - courtesy of Alison Lee) As recommended by Syndee I have now got available the inks that she considers to be really good for use with the silk screens (see above). We currently have two sets of Lumiere paints – one set of colours more bold than the other. They are [here](#) on the website. Incidentally, Syndee also uses the Chameleon pens with relish!

Helen Breil's silk screens have arrived - look on the website in the next few days. Meanwhile look at her designs [here](#) Remember too that you can already buy silk screens from Alison Gallant [here](#) (although she recommends that you use thicker paints on her screens).

For those who are collectors (!) Lucy company are bringing out yet another set of dies for their extruder (and anyone else's extruder!) – disc number 9 is due any time now although they tell me they will be more expensive!

Stop Press: Ann Parker, a member of the London Polymer Clay Group, is



Because the theme this month is clay animals I would like to introduce you to Michelle Cullen who is a mother of three children and a member of the Professional Guild of Crafters. She has been working with polymer clay for around five years. Like so many she is self taught and passionate about polymer clay. She doesn't just make animals – clay applique is one of her interests as is making jewellery. She is now selling her work and can be found [here](#) on Facebook

There are new Sculpey colours, already available in the US, but predictably we have to wait a little longer in Europe (I am told mid July). They will be graphite pearl, yellow gold glitter, white gold glitter, rose gold glitter, sunset pearl, wisteria, periwinkle and opal – nice sounding colours.

Clayday news – 3rd May - and we may have a visit from Cara Jane who is visiting our part of Wales. The intention is to try out the new silk screens from Helen Breil.

the London Polymer Clay Group, is letting us sell her mini cutters on the ClayAround website - this because there will inevitably be people who prefer not to cut their own as suggested in this [excellent article](#) by Ginger of The Blue Bottle. See Ann's mini cutters [here](#)

And, we hope that Kerry Venner, the new President of the British Polymer clay Guild will be joining our meeting in June. For more information, watch [the community website:](#)

You have to create your life. You have to carve it, like a sculpture.

William Shatner

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