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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



We have such talented artists in our midst. It is the end of the year, and still holiday time, so I am not researching a topic this month. However I want to introduce you to some of my customers and in particular those who specialise in miniature work. For me their work is outstanding. I recommend that you take some time to look at their websites for the archives of their work gives one a lot to aspire to. (Who had the audacity to say polymer clay was only "fun for the children"?)

Renate started sculpting around 8 years ago. She uses Kato and Fimo clay primarily to mix and get the skin tones she wants. She tells me she uses wire armatures in her figures (even to the tips of the fingers), and Pearlex powder when she makes the eyes. She is fascinated by human anatomy and therefore likes her work to be realistic. Her website is [here](#)

She can also be found on [Facebook](#) where she updates us on what she is working on.

Every piece is a one of a kind and they are being sold on Etsy. She gets her inspiration from music, dance, nature and fashion. The piece, top left, is one of a pair called 'Duet'

Another artistic genius who also gets his inspiration particularly from fashion is Jamie Carrington. He tells me he works in his tiny (and not so tidy!) studio in London yet his work is shown and sold all over the world. He worked in theatre for many years and the costumes on his figures makes this

evident. He calls himself a “failed dancer” so like Renata he is particularly interested in anatomy. I have chosen this particular piece by him (top right) because of its opulence! He uses many clays but adds Premo beige to help get the exact colours he wants. Do find the time to look at the dozens of pictures of his work “ they are quite amazing. [This](#) is his website.

He says (and I agree) that the polymer clay community is full of lovely loving people “ but I am tempted to suggest that Jamie’s personality has a lot to do with the love that is offered to him!

No pictures here “ but plenty on his website “ I also want to mention Allan Marshall whose miniature pieces of fruit and vegetables are stunning.

Allan is an engineer and precision is paramount “ and the crazy man has been doing 1/12 scale miniatures, and 1/24 scale for some time “ but look for the 1/48 scale that he has been doing “ here on his [Facebook](#) page.

You can see lots more images of his work [here](#) on his website. I need to add that Allan has been working tirelessly in the background for years, for the British Polymer Clay Guild, in particular being responsible for organising the representation of the Guild at the regular exhibitions at the National Exhibition Centre. His work really is appreciated.

On a completely different topic: Assuming you have some time during the holiday season, Tonja Lenderman has managed to get Tory Hughes to share some ancient videos. Two in particular are now available to us all, free. One is “[Metallic clays](#)” and the other is “[Landscape Canes](#)” I am given to understand there may be more in the future. They are worth watching.

You are aware, are you, that we have collected a vast collection of youTube videos (and much much more!) all in one place [here](#) “ some good, some not so good!

Finally, at ClayAround, we really do hope that next year will be your best year yet, and that your creativity will soar!



I have been buying again! We now have more [silk screens](#) “ those that are produced by our own Alison Gallant and her husband Paul. - the Helen Breil



Earlier in the year I featured the work of Patricia Beuting “ her stunning necklaces. Well she has an equally talented sister, Diana

silk screens have proved so popular I was sure you would like more choice and new ideas.

What I have also done is buy individual colours of heat set water soluble [paints](#) to use with the silk screens (amongst other things). Some are opaque and suitable for dark backgrounds, some are sparkly, and they can all be mixed " and used to paint onto your clay (just like Diana has on the picture to the right) or used on paper, leather, fabric " and any other flexible medium. Our clayday people have already been having some fun with them!

If you are enthused by silk screens Ginger has just produced two really excellent [e-books](#) which will give you a comprehensive insight into how to produce quality results. You can even buy a "bundle"™ of two at reduced price for a limited time (the second one is a project)

We now have Melanie Muirs wonderfully useful [templates](#) on the shopping cart too " buy them from us and Mel will send them directly to you. If you haven't tried using templates yet you will be amazed at how easy they are to use to create just the shapes you want for your polymer clay projects. You can use them as stencils too.

Beuting. Diana is an artist, and her particular interest is drawing onto her clay and then using colour to accentuate what she has done. (I have a vested interest in featuring her today because you will see the new stock of paints we now have) Diana's work can be found on Facebook under the name Artumei Artumei. Diana is from the Netherlands but lives in Belgium. You will see from her [Facebook page](#) that her work is distinctive and meticulous. Scroll down to see the Japanese cherry " they are so very delicate.

Our next clayday is on 30th January - as usual, all are welcome but let me know if you are coming.

When we do as much as we can to provide speedy delivery from ClayAround, it is frustrating when the couriers are unreliable. As a result, we are using a new courier in the new year. Here, we are still processing orders the same day, but they will now be picked up the next morning. They say their service is two days so we hope it will not delay deliveries. It would be valuable to have your feedback on the quality of their service however.

You may not have noticed, but the shopping cart has now been upgraded " we are now a secure site: <https> instead of <http>! And there will be more features to follow (when time allows!)

Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word

Goran person

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