

# December 2018

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



A request from a customer prompted me to look for mosaics but there is precious little that is created with grout in between the tiles – that being my understanding of mosaic. [On this website](#) is an ‘essay’ about mosaic that resonates with me and I quote ‘...the wonderful softness of the handmade and the imperfect is what gives life to mosaics’. [Here](#) is a potted history of mosaic that at least associates itself with modern clay crafting.

In polymer clay I feel that I have to ‘make do’ with the modern interpretation which appears to be classed as mixed media. Of those there are some interesting examples. [This vase](#) by Lynda Sandoval is nearer to my idea of mosaic in polymer clay. However [this](#) is a modern interpretation but it is only the tubes that are polymer clay, but she does use polymer clay tiles in many more of [these examples](#). Ponsawan Sila has produced a mosaic but for me it is more like [quilting](#). If you like producing tiles however Sue fisher has come up with the idea of a class teaching people how to make [tiles for mosaic](#). Some of the tiles are lovely, but I don’t see any finished mosaic products! For me the tiles that are in this [slide show](#) are much

mentioned mosaic products. For the tiles that are in the [slide show](#) are much more like those that attract me and remind me very much of the tiles that I have learned about in the [wonderful book](#) by Laurie Mika 'Mixed Media Mosaics' that is still available at Amazon, but I do recommend that you buy the paperback and not the kindle edition if you want to see the images clearly. Above left is an example of her work and you can see lots more if you go to [her website](#). You will find that [Valeriana Solaris's example](#) here emulates the sort of style created by Mika and a lovely example of wall art in mosaic is exemplified [here](#). [These pots](#) are pottery made but are wonderful motivators if you want to have a go with your polymer. Alternatively you could make quasi mosaic like the sutton slice piece I made (up right) or it can be argued by some that [this polymer technique](#) is mosaic if you want to make jewellery. But better still are these pieces by [Syndee Holt](#) These pieces have been decorated with [Pan Pastels](#) Whatever motivates you it is undoubtedly all about creativity and trying something new with your polymer. It will be interesting to see what new ideas emerge in 2019!



[We have Resin!](#) It is that Chinese Resin that one cures with a UV lamp. We are stocking it because so many people in the UK Facebook groups have expressed interest in the use of Resin.

We all need to be reminded, however, that putting a little effort into sanding and buffing can produce wonderful sheen on clay – particularly using the [new metallic cernit](#) clays

Valerie Anderson kindly gave me the 'heads up' that Polyform are reducing their line of colours, even more, in the spring and are no longer producing Premo Periwinkle, Rhino Grey and Jungle and Souffle Lagoon, Mocha, Sage, So 80s and Mai tai. I still have

Jen Lawson was originally from Preston but now lives in Manchester. Jen is a self-employed translator who has a three and a half year old son called Henry. She hosts the NW polymer clay guild claydays and predictably is a keen clayer. She recently won one of the BPCG competitions too (if you are a Guild member they are fun – try them!) – see the picture above of this beautiful book she produced.

Jen has written a tutorial that will be featured in the late January edition of Making Jewellery and it is pure serendipity this month because she tells me it is on skinner blends that are then used for mosaics. Obviously worth looking for.

a limited stock of all these colours if they are ones that you want to stock up on!

What is so great about polymer clay are the creative possibilities. Have you thought about venturing into using Gelli plates yet? These are ideal tools to help you to develop new ideas with your clay for the new year. Everything you need is included in these [kits](#) we now have.

She can be found on her Facebook page but you can see lots more of her work on her [Instagram page](#)

Debs Shaw has her next [clayday](#) on 26 January in St Martin's, near Oswestry, Shropshire – see the details on the BPCG website:

Another year is due – I really do hope it is a productive one, and a healthy one, for you (despite the political chaos!).

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What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year

Vern McLeilan

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