

July Newsletter

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



This month Kerrie Venner came to spend a weekend with us and we had an impromptu clayday as a result. She is taking her new job as President of the British Polymer Clay Guild seriously and visiting clayday groups all-round the country to research what people want of the Guild.

Kerrie's current projects centre on Egyptian colour and form. As a result we all had a go at producing pieces based on these ideas. On the right you can see the lovely (albeit unfinished) piece that Kerrie produced, and on the left some samples of what the others in the group produced.

So logically, I thought it would be interesting to research further what colours were prevalent through history and/or other cultures. [The first find](#) (if you scroll down the page) is a collection of ancient history colour schemes. Concentrating on [Roman mosaics](#) here is a treasure trove of patterns which could so easily be copied using extruders. I then moved onto ancient Japan and found these Japanese vintage geisha dolls showing the [predominance of red](#). [Here](#), if you look for the third picture on the slide show, you will find the colours of medieval Europe and over the centuries there has always been the painting of silk [in china](#). More recently, [here](#) is an Elizabethan range of colours (with an interesting piece about dyeing in the sixteenth century.) Even more modern shows the vibrancy of colours used [in India](#)

Apropos of nothing historical, if colour stimulates you, look at [these birds](#):

As we found with Kerrie, once you have a colour scheme to concentrate on, the possibilities are endless.



“Monkey Ann”™ has been doing a lot of research and has finally found some “inchies”™ cutters. She is adding them to her stock on the ClayAround website. I am quite sure these will be popular “ see [here](#). And only arrived today are the new Sculpey liquid clays in [Silver and gold](#). I have been experimenting with the new [Pardo transparent clay](#), too. I did not find it to be particularly transparent! However, consolation is that the colours are quite lovely.

We have some more inexpensive [cameo frames](#) “ we now have round, square, oval and rectangular. I have found that you can put a piece of scrap clay into one of those and create a very acceptable pendant!

And here you can see the lovely work by [Claire Maunsell](#) “ the image transfer featured in Polymer Clay Daily, but also just about every image has the addition of Pan Pastels “ the art form she loves.

Clayday news “ The next one is on Sunday 30th July. Experts and new learners alike are welcome. Details and images from the last days can be

Ana Maria Townsend was born in Portugal but now lives in Yorkshire. Ana enjoys spending time with her grandchildren (who love the Chameleon pens!). Polymer clay was used originally to enhance her silver clay expertise “ mostly through making texture plates. However, she is now yet another convert making artefacts and jewellery. Kato is currently her favourite clay because of the intense colours and its benefit when making canes. Like so many of us she teaches an introduction to polymer clay “ lets hope she gets some more converts! She can be found on Facebook- just search for Ana Maria T.

I have already announced on Facebook that I am, sadly, ceasing to sell Lucy Tools. Their tools are quite excellent, but in my opinion their business practices are not. Their German “selling partners”™ and their selling partner in the Netherlands have also made this decision. I do

and images from the last days can be found [here](#)

A reminder that Alison and Rebecca are still taking bookings for their Poly Art Retreat in October on the lovely Farncombe estate in the Cotswolds. See details [here](#)

hope that the Lucy company will learn that understanding, and satisfying the needs of their wholesale and retail customers is paramount . You can, of course, still buy their tools on their website .

Man needs colour to live; itâ€™s just as necessary an element as fire and water.

Fernand Leger

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