

June 2016

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



Important: We are off to Euro Synergy polymer clay conference in Bordeaux so no orders will be processed between 8th and 17th July inclusive. Orders sent in that time will be processed on 18th July.

Shapes in polymer clay is my topic this month.. I was given a project very early on in my polymer career producing mobiles for a company that produces mechanical toys " I had a lot of fun coming up with these shapes (see top right) Those are pretty traditional but on the left is a picture of some pieces given to me by the daughter of an artist who has been dropping wax into hot water " I am absolutely sure they could be used for something: but haven't worked out what yet. Let me know if you have any ideas!

if you want a help with making your shapes then for a start Mel muir has recently developed a new array of more standard shapes in her templates, maintaining that whilst these are available elsewhere her's are far more sturdy. We have them on our site [here](#).and you can see one of the more traditional shapes on the photo bottom left.

I suppose one shouldn't forget, too, the vast array of shapes that can be so easily produced with Penni Jo's moulds " on sale [here](#) but with a video showing you how to [use any of her moulds](#). Penni Jo also has some free tutorials on her site " see [here](#).

on her site at [see here](#)

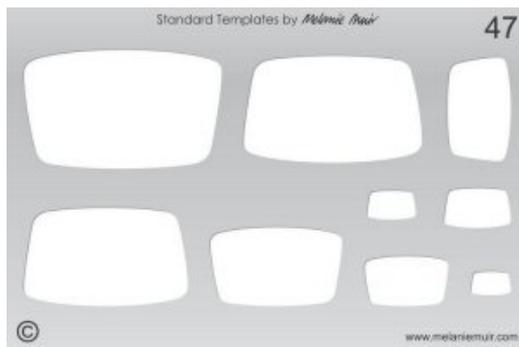
You may also have seen the excellent e-book called 'Shapes' that has been produced by Helen Breil – details of which are on her website, But more importantly she has recently produced a video to help you produce work as beautiful as hers with her new silk screens – see [here](#):

Do have a look at this fun video with [Martha Stewart](#) – it is for beginners but will surely appeal to all of us! They are making shapes! At the other end of the spectrum look at the amazing shapes that are made by [Melanie West](#) (I will be doing a workshop with her at EuroSynergy). And Mel has been posting many more shapes on her Facebook page recently – just search for Melanie West (Raven’s Clay) – some of the shapes are fascinating.

Here, too, are some interesting shapes – [sculptures](#) covered in polymer. And some [traditional beads](#) carved into different shapes in order to experiment with colour. Of course there is a [pinterest page](#) with lots of really inspirational shapes (if it lets you in: it was playing up for me!)

And finally, if you want to see the work of the ultimate genius with shapes then just feast your eyes on the work of [Jeffry Lloyd Dever](#) on his website.

Do you ever look at all the resources on our community site? Our next clayday will be on Saturday 30th July.,Have a look at a slide show at the end of the [pictures](#) from our latest clayday (last weekend) . There you will see the beautifully carved goose eggs (work in progress) by Roz - a really exciting project.



We have replenished the Glem Gilding wax and also the Mica powder paint. These were both experimental buys but both products have proved to be popular. The Glem gilding wax is not unlike Gilder’s paste but these useful small containers give you more variety of colour for your money. Mica powder paint is a powder to which you can add water giving it more uses.



This month I am featuring Debbie Shaw. She tells me she has always loved making things and gets bored if she hasn’t got something to do. She, like so many of us, has become involved in many crafts: she has run workshops and a craft club, and has been featured in crafting publications. But has settled onto weaving and

We have the Darwi varnish gloss back in stock (I bet you didn't even notice that we only had Satin!) I am pleased to say I have finally found some ["deli paper"](#) (I have to thank Ginger for that!) " so we have packs of 50 available. It is used for so many purposes with polymer clay, not the least wrapping your canes.

We also have the texture sheets by Karantha again" have a look [here](#). And we have some more of the lovely little rubber ended shaper tools by West that are so very useful for detailed work " see those [here](#).

Ann Parker ("MonkeyAnn") has been selling from the ClayAround website for some time now. However, she has now got her own website and a wonderful array of cutters and tubes. Do have a look at [her site](#)

polymer clay. Debs says she is very precise in nature (and from her weaving I can see this trait " it is quite superbly delicate patient work!) and believes that there are many techniques in polymer clay that will appeal as a result. She has been claying for only 18 months but is already making buttons, brooches and shawl pins to sell. The bird shown above exemplifies her desire to finish her work with a sheen.

Given that Debs (highlighted above) believes that hand finishing is a must on her work, maybe I can add a reminder that Ginger (who has now returned to the US but will be back next year) has written a particularly good e-book on sanding and buffing " see [here](#). I have this book and it is very detailed with lots of extra hints and tips " it, like all her tutorials, is value for money.

Creativity is a wild mind and a disciplined eye.

Dorothy Parker

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