

May Newsletter 2014

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Your ClayAround Newsletter



ClayAround

We are back from the International Polymer clay conference in Malta, and full of ideas. The workshop that made the biggest impression was learning how to draw/carve and paint on polymer clay. Kathleen Dustin was using heat set paints (see her "work in progress"™ from the workshop below left) but she also used fine tipped coloured pens and a carving tool. Clayaround now have both. Fimo have just produced a set of really high quality tools, pictured below (an engineer told me he would buy them!), one of which has a carving tip. And Clayaround have acquired the fine tip pens recommended by Kathleen: Lumocolor 6mm (see here: http://www.clayaround.com/product_info.php?cPath=24&products_id=887).

So " if you want inspiration for drawing you could start with these doodle ideas: <http://www.craftsbychrisonline.com/main/blog/doodle-away.html> or if you like more delicate work look at this lovely mint drawing:

<https://www.etsy.com/uk/listing/96350852/casual-mint-pale-turquoise-flower?ref=market>. There are lots of ideas on this page

https://www.etsy.com/market/drawing_on_clay " not all for polymer clay, but adaptable. And if you know about zentangles look at the bottom of this page for ideas: <http://polymerclayproductions.com/tag/zendoodle/>. Lovely drawing and carving examples can be found here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ornamentalelements/> and some quality work to aspire to here: <http://www.shelleyatwood.com/gallery.htm> or you may just want to relax in the same way as Barbara Briggs does:

<http://barbarabriggsdesigns.wordpress.com/2012/05/16/like-practicing-yoga-and-listening-to-soothing-music/>





We have lots of new stock â€“ I guess the main news is that we have the new Fimo professional clay. It is the old Classic clay in a different guise â€“ in 3oz packs. The main interest is in the new colours, seen above. We have their new extruder too.

I have also discovered that Fimo have sets of bead piercing needles â€“ why would you want those you ask? Well, I have frequently been asked for replacement wires for bead racks â€“ and these are ideal!

I have in my hands as well, examples of the new Polyform Souffle clay, but it will not be available in the UK for a couple more months. It is a bit like the old Studio clay â€“ with a suede finish, but it is stronger, and they have interesting new colours.

We have the full range of patchy moulds back in, and watch this space - we will be back up to full stock of Fat Daddios within a couple of weeks!

Remember that registration forms are now available for Alison Gallantâ€™s Polydays â€“ details here:
<http://www.millefioristudio.com/polydays.html>



Today I am featuring the work of Margaret Gardiner who points out modestly that â€“polymer clay and chain maille are just her hobbiesâ€™ She says they have been â€“therapy for a few pretty lousy years â€“ and so far they have worked a treat!â€™ (In my belief it is not uncommon for people with health problems to find great solace in polymer clay) Her piece, â€“Fiestaâ€™ was made with Pardo translucent, coloured with Pinata and Ranger alcohol inks. There are more examples of her work in the gallery on the Pardo website:

www.pardopeople.co.uk

The next Clayaround clayday will be on Sunday 22nd June â€“ details here:
<http://community.clayaround.com/welsh-claydays.html>. Lots of ideas from Malta to share!

So you see, imagination needs noodling â€“ long, inefficient, happy idling, dawdling and puttering

Brenda Veland

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