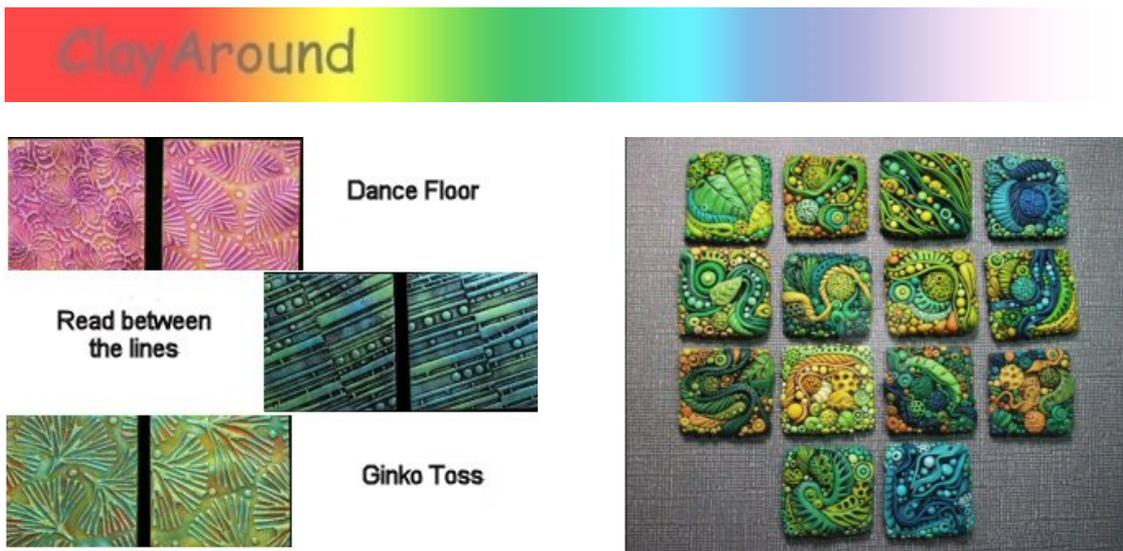


May 2018

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Your ClayAround Newsletter



I think you will find this is a 'Helen Breil centred newsletter'!. Above left are examples of the effects of the new textures she has produced (they are due to arrive at ClayAround any day now) Don't you think these samples look like Inchies? So of course that gave me the idea of finding more inchies – and there are lots.

I asked Chris Kapono (alias Mandarin Moon) if I could show you her quite brilliant inchies: (they are above right). She even has a [tutorial](#) you can buy if you want to.

You can see more of her work on [her blog](#). Annie Msson has produced her own interpretation of Mandarinmoon's inchies [here](#) Alternatively you will find sculpted inchies by Aquamaze on [this website](#). A lot of work has gone into these.

A very different proponent of making small squares is [Laurie Mika](#). if you trawl through the pages of her art you will find many quite extraordinary examples. In [her book](#) she even teaches you how to make her tiny tiles. I have her book on my kindle - it makes fascinating reading.

At the other end of the spectrum here are some incredibly simple pendants made from inchies – she calls them [Inchie Winchies](#). Meanwhile Jael says she has been doodling with her clay and has come up with [these inchies](#): It really is a clever idea to create a full piece that can then be 'sliced up and moved around'. [This clay group](#) have also produced collages with their inchies with some interesting results and [here](#) is a practical use of inchies obtained in a swap.

many of us have encountered inchies when we have taken part in swaps. There are so many examples of these swaps available, so feast your eyes on:

[A swap in 2011](#), This is a [swap many years ago](#) and I haven't been able to establish when (despite asking at least one of the contributors!). A clay carnival swap in 2013 – [robots!](#) and if you scroll down the page here you will see the entries for a more recent swap, [last year](#)

I remember the first swap I was involved with and it is so exciting getting example of other people's work. I absolutely love the concept of inchies. If you are part of a claygroup maybe you will climb onto the band wagon and consider arranging an inchies swap in your group - or even with another group!



We had a wonderful experience at our last clayday. The Helen Breil experiment came to fruition. A group of our people bought her [video tutorial](#). At the clayday we all went through the tutorial and made a pendant from the tutorial (mine is above) and at the end of the day Helen, who is in Canada, came through on the technology and answered questions and gave us hints and tips. All who attended said it was an interesting experience and an excellent day.

Incidentally, as a result of this we now have a stock of high quality [rare earth magnets](#). They are so good to use in jewellery you have made. The possibilities are endless (It takes me back to when I used polymer clay for the first time making fridge magnets!)

And Helen's influence again. She uses pens for adding that special touch to the edges of her work. I have ordered some black, gold, silver and copper



Having just returned from nearly two months in Cyprus, Althea Whybrow has chosen to show you this lovely pendant she made using Mel Muir's 'River' texture (as you know I have lots of Mel's textures [here](#)). Althea is a confident person who has recently become heavily involved in a craft group run in Cambridgeshire. She has delighted her friends and family with her new skills using Polymer clay (she only found it just over a year ago) and particularly enjoys the rich mixtures of golds and blues/greens she uses in her work. She is self-taught using YouTube tutorials and comparing notes with people in her craft group.

I have mentioned our Helen Breil experience above left. Having done this once, Helen wants to do it again. So any claying group or Guild in the

some black, gold, silver and copper pens that can be used for that purpose.

Oh, and something else - some Pebeo waxes in similar colours are on their way: look out for them on the shopping cart.

I have mentioned already that I have a category now for [reduced products](#). I have just put the remainder of the Christmas bargain Premo onto there. The blocks are now around 6 months old – so quite new and perfectly good. I have separated them into individual blocks because not everyone wants all the colours. Now you can get white, pomegranate, silver, 18k gold, burnt umber and Spanish gold at the reduced price per piece rather than in a set. There aren't many left however, so have a look soon!

UK (or indeed in Europe) can [contact Helen](#) through her website if you are interested, and she will give you the details of how to arrange it. At your centre you need a large monitor (or indeed enough individuals with their own ipads) plus a decent microphone and speakers. It is a great way to complete a tutorial with like minded people with the added bonus of advice from the expert.

We haven't any claydays planned for this month here in Wales – we are cooking up more new ideas. I will let you know once we have more news. As ever the information will be available on our [community website](#). It may not look as if there are many changes on that site but I assure you extra resources are being added constantly

The chief enemy of creativity is good sense

Pablo Picasso

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