

October Newsletter 2015

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



Texture is the topic today. I guess I am motivated by Mel Muir: I had a wonderful surprise gift from Mel Muir this week – some of her superb texture stamps (see picture top left) – they are transparent, and deep, with wonderful organic shapes inspired by the landscape around where she lives in the Scottish Highlands. I do recommend them – you can buy them [here](#):

We can do so very much with texture. Have you tried impressing antique lace into your clay? You can achieve some wonderful effects.

You don't NEED tools either (although we all love them) for you can find textures everywhere you look in your home: cheese grater, pan scoured, fish tank filters, bolts and screws, buttons, leaves, peach stones – I could go on.

Alternatively you can get hold of some carving tools to make your own even more sophisticated texture sheets. Create the textures you like in your clay, cure it, press it into [mold maker](#), cure the mold maker, and you have your own flexible texture makers!

Texture is wonderful for hiding flaws – look at Ginger's recommendations [here](#): You can produce untold varieties of mokome gane using texture sheets – [here](#) is some basic information that you can adapt. And then there is the Sutton slice (see the picture top right) – [here](#) is a video by Lisa Pavelka who came up with the idea as a result of working with a friend.

If you want inspiration for textures to produce, then scroll down on [this page](#) for a start. And of course you mustn't miss the wonderful possibilities produced by Helen Breil on her website [here](#). And then there is there is [a pinterest page](#) to keep you busy:



This month I am delighted to show you the new "Stampies"™, produced locally by two young entrepreneurs. We, therefore, will be the first to stock them. Right up to date with technology they are made with a 3D printer. There are six sets of 10 and clayday people have been testing them to great effect " see the slide show lower down the page [here](#): There have been some improvements made to the Stampies as a result of our feedback (one improvement was to have them coated to make them sturdy).. I am quite sure they will be a very useful addition to the vast number of tools we clayers can use. (One of the sets is a Christmas set too).

Also a reminder, with Christmas coming up, that I have the Fimo moulds available so you can make Christmas Tree decorations. See [here](#)

With Christmas in mind, now is the time to suggest to those who care about you that you would love one of these (expensive!) [sets of Pan](#)



Steph Seward lives in West Yorkshire with her husband and two teenage boys and sells her crafts from her business Mill House Designs, although most is sold at Gallery Shops and craft fairs. Steph has produced the pieces above with the Kor rollers, with mica powder, pigments and silver foil. She enjoys embellishing her clay with paints as well as moulds usually using black or white Fimo soft as her base, but also enjoys using pearl and translucent and lots of bright purples, pinks, turquoise and gold " and even Wasabi. She has been claying for about 4 years although knitting, spinning, weaving and dyeing have been her core crafts previously. Her dyeing can be found [here](#) and she can be found on Facebook [here](#): It was this work with wool that brought her to polymer clay: It's amazing how polymer clay (buttons in this case) complement our other craft pursuits!

The next clayday, the last before Christmas, will be on Saturday 5th Decemberr in Garthmyl. As usual

those (expensive!) [sets of 11 air Pastels](#) for Christmas - or perhaps a set of [Chameleon pens!](#)

Having just received a shipment of kemper cutters from America, we have added a very useful hole cutter punch which has a spring loaded inner tube which ejects the clay. See [here](#)

Are you aware that when Fimo Classic was superseded by Fimo Professional, a lot of people said they were reluctant to relinquish their Classic clay? I deliberately acquired a good stock for these people. I am therefore still selling Fimo Classic (luckily it improves with age as long as you are patient with the conditioning!) and have a limited supply of both 2oz and 350oz blocks.

details are [here](#) .Let me know if you are attending. We will have a 'Jacob';s Join' i.e evryone bring something with them to share, to eat.

Apropos of nothing " Sculpey have had Julie Picarello produce a free tutorial. Even if you don't like the design you can benefit from her knowledge of her [wonderful colour palettes:](#)

A reminder - again -the most important event next year (Don't tell Cara who is running Polymania!) is [EuroSynergy2](#) - we are off to Bordeaux for workshops, seminars and talks from some of the top clayers in the world - it is so near to us in the UK it is an event not to be missed.

The desire to create is one of the deepest yearnings of the human soul

dieter F. Uchtdorf

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