

April 2016

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Your ClayAround Newsletter




The newsletter is late this month because I have been away learning how to make very special canes with Carol Simmons – anyone who knows her work will know how spectacular is. See her [Pinterest page](#). Inevitably I want to show you what I have been doing – patterns (not cured yet) on the left and a kaleidoscope pendant on the right. So patterns in polymer seems to be a good topic, albeit that there aren't many tutorials, but there are so many ideas using many tools. Carol isn't the only person who teaches tessellation – [here](#) (scroll down her page) are some nice examples by Judy Belcher. Maggie Maggio is one of the inspirations for all the wonderful colours one can use when making patterns but she is also the originator of some lovely ideas, like these [torn beads](#) made by Desire. Desire also shows us [lots of patterns](#) made with swirls, mokume gane and wavy cuts too.

Silk screens will produce patterns of course – here are some examples of [Alison Gallant's patterns](#) (you can buy her designs [here](#)) And next week you will find a vast collection of wonderful patterns produced by Moiko on the shopping cart. (see the insert in the photo bottom left of a lovely piece make by Chrissie Baker)).

If flower patterns attract you then Iris Mishly loves [baby flowers](#) and [here](#) you can find lots of patterns with flowers as well as lots of instruction on how to make

different flowers. You can make patterns with the extruder too. There is a tutorial [here](#) and of course there are patterns to be made with the lovely large [MKM rollers](#) (which have proved to be popular because of the possibilities they offer)

If Mandalas interest you then [here](#) are some special ones, and if you haven't seen enough there, then there is of course a [pinterest page](#) full of them (they are not all polymer clay but they are inspirational.)

There are just limitless pattern possibilities...



I have already mentioned that we now have the Moiko silk screens – they will be on the shopping cart in the next few days. They are tiny and very detailed screens which produce delicate images.

Christine Dumont has recommended yet another set of attractive silk screens so watch this space!

We have also got a new stock of the Helen Breil silk screens (including her new designs) and have replenished our stock of Helen's texture sheets. Do look at her [excellent website](#) where you will see possibilities as well as access free tutorials.

Have you seen the new Facebook group for the British Polymer Clay Guild? Lizzi Bucklow Holt has done a great job gathering people together to discuss things polymer and provide a forum for questions (and answers). You do not have to be a member of the Guild to join in the discussion



Irene Hollies is well known in the polymer clay community, particularly for her prolific production of distinctively bold and colourful jewellery. She uses a lot of textures and lately has favoured silk screens because of their ease of use. These pieces were made using heat set paints and using the new [Golden Matt varnish](#) originally used on the edges only, but finally she covered the whole of the front, to good effect.

Irene (whose many children are now successful adults) lives on the Wirral and travels widely to attend many of the workshops that are held both in the UK and abroad. You can find more of her work on her Etsy pages [here](#)

The next clay day is on May 7th – tomorrow! As ever all are welcome. Details [here](#) as usual. The colour theory I learned last week was a revelation to me (being a novice on the topic) and we were given one simple guide to the basics which I intend to share with everyone tomorrow

[We can't wait to join in the celebration.](#)

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Great creativity is astonishingly, absurdly, rationally, irrationally powerful.

Andy Hobsbawn

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ClayAround
Larkrise,
Garthmyl
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