

June Newsletter

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



At our last clayday ([details here](#)) Eileen was singing the praises of the brilliant course that Christine Dumont has been running on her website. Christine was encouraging people to think deeply about design. You can see examples of Christine's own meticulous work [here](#). Eileen was one of the few people who stayed the course and you can see some of the work on the [Voila site](#).

I was particularly taken with the piece that she brought with her to our Clayday (see top right). As a result it seemed appropriate to focus on design this week – no tutorials, just food for thought! What is apparent is that top artists have particularly different styles. America's [Donna Greenburg](#) has a particularly distinctive style: as has [Jana Roberts Benzon](#). [Melanie West](#) is different again. Meanwhile Helen Breil, from Canada, has a very "smooth" style as you can see [here](#).

My observation is that artists from different countries have different styles too. Look how different are the designs from [Bettina Welker](#) of Germany are compared with those of [Ana Belchi](#) of Spain.

The use of colour is markedly different too. Our beloved [Sarah Shriver](#) adored bright colours – her work exemplifies her art training and [Claire Maunsell](#) just loves playing with colour (she is the "Pan Pastel

queenâ€™™!) Obviously we must mention [Lindy Haunani](#) whose book â€™™[Polymer Clay Colour Inspirations](#)â€™™™ was written with [Maggie Maggio](#) (another genius with colour) if you like Carol Simmons work she has a blog piece on colour that is worth reading [here](#): The ultimate in design precision is, in my view, the work of [Jeffrey Lloyd dever](#) Something to aspire to!



We have the new Premo colours â€™™ all very lovely. The most popular is the Opal (we will get some more in the next couple of weeks!).

And if you look [here](#) you will find a massive collection of videos telling you everything you would like to know about the Chameleon pens â€™™ they are proving to be very popular.

At our clayday we played with the Pan pastels â€™™ indeed Tony produced a five minute landscape on his piece of white clay â€™™ it does show what the possibilities are for artists! (see top left) Eileen produced a more traditional and interesting piece with her pan pastels.

The sad news is that I have had a number of requests for the new Lucy mini slicer. However, when I contacted the Lucy company they told me that they are not selling through their worldwide selling partners â€™™ this new slicer will only be available



Patricia Beuting says â€™™By my creations I would like to take you on a journey into a world of colors, shapes and patterns. A world where surprising creations are possible by combining these elements and match them into a harmonious whole.â€™™ And explains that she is inspired by fabrics, ceramics, tapestries and mosaics she finds in different cultures. She, like so many of us is passionate about polymer clay and in particular enjoys intricate caning. She says she starts with vague plans but invariably just sees what happens, and is always surprised!

She lives in the Netherlands and works at a primary school where she enjoys their open minded creativity of the children and the possibilities that they discover between them. She says that for her working with Polmerclay is â€™™a never ending storyâ€™™.

from their site in Czechoslovakia â€“ and shipped directly from there. I am particularly disappointed because the price to customers will inevitably be considerably more as a result.

Clayday news â€“ The next one is on 25th July. Experts and new learners alike are welcome. Details can be found [here](#)

Allan Marshall is starting some new classes for Miniaturists on 19th July at Curborough (that is the meeting place for the British Polymer Clay Guild). It is aimed at beginners â€“ the first class will concentrate on measuring out clay to achieve colour mixes matching â€“mother natureâ€™s palateâ€™™ Allan specialises in producing fruit and vegetables - you will be learning 1/12 scale! You can contact Allan [here](#) or Angie (programme manager) [here](#) Beginners - and experts - are welcome!

The details are not the details. They make the design.

Charles Eames

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