

Christmas over and time to start planning for the new year. Time to indulge in making some time to experiment with clay. I have given myself some time and have been experimenting with surface techniques. This because when I went down to the London Polymer Clay Group last month Veronika Sturdy showed us some very clever image transfer. She simply burnished a lazer printed image onto some Fimo soft and this is an example of what she produced:



The dry black and white was burnished and the colours were painted on with indelible ink pens; predictably I have some of those pens available:



Helen Breil shows lots of examples of her experimentation with surface techniques on her blog: <http://www.helenbreil.com/index.php?pr=TexturedTileTutorial1> - she uses rubber stamps, alcohol inks (including Pinata inks) and silver leaf.

Here you will find lovely examples of how to use oil pastels

<http://www.storiestheyteell.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2011-02-26T06:52:00-05:00&max-results=7> and find an almost unending selection for inspiration here

http://www.flickr.com/photos/cobaltandindigo/galleries/72157623164774697#photo_2895844008 -

As seems to be the case every year, the bad news is that virtually all of the clay suppliers have increased their prices. The good news is that whilst stocks last ClayAround prices will remain the same. We continue to offer competitive prices and the best possible service we can.

My hope is that for you the New Year will be productive and creative and that you continue to learn about this wonderful medium and be inventive. Wouldn't it be great if we, in the UK and Europe, became the leaders in the field?

Without leaps of imagination, or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning.

Gloria Steinem