

October 2016

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Your ClayAround Newsletter



ClayAround



Mandalas are fascinating, usually circular designs, but have evolved over generations. They are mostly used as meditative tools, but for us in the polymer clay community they represent wonderful opportunities for design. [Polyzine](#) offer a short history if you are interested. Yonat Dascalu offers you an excellent YouTube tutorial [here](#) whose results are not unlike the wonderful designs that [Carol Simmons](#) taught us - and she shows how you can change them into other shapes. [Meg](#) from Cane Builder offers all sorts of mandala possibilities if you search her blog whilst the Polymer clay artists guild in Etsy ran a competition for more traditional Mandalas, the results of which are [here](#). Of course I am interested in showing you the wonderful mandala designs that [Gosia](#) offers us with her silk screens and top right is an example of an immaculate piece produced by Irene Hollies using one of those silk screens (Incidentally, Irene now has a wonderful venue if you run teaching courses - just search for Ddol issa farm on Facebook)

Jana Roberts Benzon (who will be at [Polymania](#) next year) kindly gave me permission to use the photo top left. You can see more of her work [here](#). You will see from this [Etsy piece](#) that you can make all sorts of things with your mandalas once completed. And finally, if you want to feast your eyes on lots of mandalas [Susan Buhman](#) states that they are her main pursuit "you will surely find lots of ideas amongst these. I have it in mind to create a collection of decorative tiles



Orders have increased this month and judging from the content I am guessing that most people are starting to make for Christmas. What has been incredibly popular are the sparkly foils “ in particular the iridescent, the rainbow and the stars “ so I have ordered lots more just in case!

Christmas making can be enhanced too by the cutters [here](#) and [here](#) or by using the moulds [here](#). You could add some sparkle with [these](#) little bags of fine glitter (blue, turquoise, pearl and green) or make quick (and easy!) pendants with the various cameo frames we have [here](#).

I have replenished the stock of the pearlex and the heat set paints as well as the Fat Daddio’s cutters. BUT “ four of my suppliers so far have now announced that they are putting up their prices “because of brexit”. We are talking about between 15% and 22% being quoted. They blame the fluctuating British currency too. With my political hat on I am inclined to simply not to buy as my belief is, given that sterling will surely settle, that it is an excuse to take advantage. After all, we will not be leaving the EU for at least two years “ maybe more!



At the time I discovered Jon Burgess’s™ work, by chance Cynthia Tinnapple also discovered him and featured him on Polymer Clay Daily (he was absolutely delighted!) Jon has been experimenting for the past couple of years with how to get images on to polymer clay, and particularly likes to produce an aged look. He has also made texture sheets using a photopolymer process. Here you can see his [image transfer](#) production. These digital images, he says, make great and strangely organic textures.

He also produces wonderful abstract patterns and makes them into [tiles](#). I hope he will forgive me for featuring one of his tiles (above) rather than his recent experimentation (which he calls 'The Fascination') I love his tiles and it was these that headed me toward featuring mandalas this month.

The next clayday will be on Sunday November 20th. As usual details can be found [here](#) and we always welcome new people. We will have a 'Jacob's join' meal (each person brings a plate of food to share. The trouble is we all eat too much!) as it will be the pre-Christmas celebration. For the last couple of years we have

The good news is....

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(sorry only payable by bank transfer),
will set up the shopping cart with the
name of the recipient, so that s/he can
choose whatever s/he likes, when s/he
likes " AND we will add an extra 5%
credit to the amount that can be spent.

been covering Christmas 'baubles' so I
guess we may do that again!

My experience is that the postal
system is currently erratic: I assume it
is because of the run up to Christmas.
Be aware therefore that, despite my
continuing to process orders on the
day they are received, they often take
a number of days to get to their
destination. If you really do need
something in a hurry then email me
and I can quote the post office or
courier "next day delivery"™
prices for you.

You can't use up creativity. The more you use the more you have.

Maya Angelou

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