

Hope for us yet:

Are you new to polymer clay? Recently Polymer Clay Daily (www.Polymerclaydaily.com) highlighted an article about Elise Winter. Elise gave hope to those of us who feel we will never reach the heights of artistic prowess with polymer clay when expressing her belief that persistence wins in the end. Read her full article here: http://www.elisewinters.com/new/documents/get_creative_interview.pdf. If you are a polymer clay artist of long standing then you will enjoy a second look at the brilliance of her work.

News:

I have found a really interesting discussion recently as a result of finding someone calling mokume Gane 'mokume nendo'. It seems there are metal artists who feel that it degrades the art of mokume gane (which comes from Japanese manipulation of metals) by adopting the name when using polymer clay. Have a look here: <http://beadcomber.blogspot.com/2009/03/polymer-clay-mokume-gane-or-mokume.html>

I have been researching Pardo, a new clay by Viva. The general opinion is that it is a lovely clay but quite soft. Some say it is still firm enough to hold when making canes – others don't. It is sold in a variety of lovely colours, and presented in small balls rather than in a block. In my view the overriding advantage, which does not seem to be emphasized enough, is that they are using beeswax instead of plasticizers making it into a truly ecological product. And so kind to your hands. My experience is that all clays leave ones hands feeling dry. Pardo does not. Watch ClayAround website as I will soon be getting a limited supply of Pardo clay. Meanwhile, if you have encountered it, do let me know your opinion of it. Email me: Penny@clayaround.com with your thoughts.



If you are selling what you make, the first couple of months of the year are not the best months. However, it is a good time to be preparing stock for March and April when craft fairs pick up. Although craft fairs are not the only outlet you may have. I was selling polymer clay buttons at a Spinners and Weavers meeting recently. If you use your imagination, there are many outlets for your work.

You may be interested in having a look at the new British Polymer Clay Guild website: www.bpcg.org.uk – I have to admit that I built this website. There isn't so much to see if you are not a member of the Guild (so maybe you would want to join), and if you are a member – do produce a page of pictures of your work to display. It's an ideal opportunity to market what you are selling. Notice the beautiful piece of work on the right hand side of the front page – that is a stunning mosaic by Sue Heaser.

And finally, if you live in Britain remember too that the Spring Miniatura is on at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham on 27th and 28th March. There will be plenty of clayers there. And that coincides with the Hobby Crafts exhibition at the NEC which is from 25th to 28th March.

Oh, and follow us on Twitter @ClayAround

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

Albert Schweitzer