

My garden is full of snowdrops, crocuses, and budding daffodils – if you are anything like me it makes you want to make lots of flower canes. And you may think differently, but I think Kato clay is the best of all clays for making canes.

We have all been struggling to get hold of Kato clay lately and rumours abounded. Reformulation? Well, the good news is, direct from the manufacturer:

*“Kato Polyclay is not going through a major reformulation. What we have done is to make it slightly softer for conditioning purposes.”*

The other big news is that Synergy2 has just finished in Baltimore. Everyone who was anyone in the polymer clay world was at this exceptional conference that stimulates ideas, creativity and inspiration. Daily Art Muse published a ‘must read’ article at the beginning of March: <http://dailyartmuse.com/2010/03/04/synergy-2-part-1-in-pursuit-of-excellence-the-evolution-of-a-medium/> In particular it emphasises that the Art World is beginning to recognise Polymer Clay artists to be people to be accepted, respected and admired.

A further article, written in ‘The Artful Life: <http://blog.artfulhome.com/index.php/2010/03/03/> talks about what is particularly evident in Britain, that Polymer clay has been considered to be ‘fun for the kiddies’. I talked to the Marketing manager of Staedtler last month and challenged him about this. He murmured something about Fimo having to be classed as a toy in Europe and pointed to the safety logo on the packets. However, in my view, this doesn’t ring true: does this mean that adults can’t use what is targeted at children? Why not target adults and artists who then have the added advantage that they could use it with their children?



Have you seen the Studio by Sculpey Texture wheels? The set comes a handle and four interchangeable wheels which are ideal for producing borders. However not just that. When used without the handles the designs can be used to texture pendants and buttons and much much more (the leaf design looks particularly good!).

And finally, I am having second thoughts about stocking Pardo. I have talked to a number of the top clayers about it, it seems very few of them like it – it is not firm enough. Ironically, they are apparently developing a firmer edition of the same clay, but are going to eliminate the beeswax. For me, the beeswax was the selling point. I will be interested in your further comments. If you have any, contact me at [letmeknow@clayaround.com](mailto:letmeknow@clayaround.com)

End thought: Do remember Miniatura at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in the UK on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March.

*"The most important investment you can make is in yourself."*

*Warren Buffet*