

Well I suppose it's really the wrong time of the year, at the end of June, to be talking about garden seeds, but here is a quite brilliant idea that I came across: polymer clay seed markers: <http://joneville.com/creations/clay-creations/seed-markers/> - how's that for something creative to do for your garden?

And whilst we are thinking about things natural you can learn to make pods and cocoons in September at a wonderful workshop in London to be run by Christine Dumont. Full details can be found here: <http://www.allovercreation.net/Pods.html>

Do you buy tutorials on line? Iris Mishley is offering (until 2<sup>nd</sup> July so hurry up and look if you are interested) a couple of fun tutorials at reduced prices on her new website: [http://www.polypediaonline.com/133688/special\\_final\\_products](http://www.polypediaonline.com/133688/special_final_products). If you are looking for a free tutorial you can find this one from Iris giving you advice on reducing canes: [http://www.youtube.com/user/polypediaonlineTV#p/a/u/2/Olt\\_5Z2usIU](http://www.youtube.com/user/polypediaonlineTV#p/a/u/2/Olt_5Z2usIU)

She has recently been invited to be one of the tutors on Donna Kato's CraftEU website. Whilst the tutorials are not cheap if you search you can find some excellent free tutorials. Look at this one: <http://craftedu.faculte.com/bp/MzA0MjM5OTUzMg>

Better still, keep your eyes open because ClayAround are in the process of developing a Community Website and we have already put together a large collection of Polymer Clay Tutorials. They are from YouTube but are all together in one place so you don't have to search around.

And there will be lots more of interest on the site. Predictably I will let you know more soon.

Meanwhile you may have noticed that ClayAround has a new layout for the front page. We would be interested to know if you think it is more useful. And we have exciting new stock – lots of Alcohol inks and a multitude of colours in Pearlex. With these there is so much scope for enhancing the look of your clay, adding colour and/or inclusions.

Alcohol inks can be poured sparingly onto your clay (and if you want a metallic look add a really small amount of one of the mixers) – add as many colours as you like as they will drift into each other creating unexpected and fascinating colour combinations.



Pearlex can be mixed into translucent clay, or you can put it onto the surface of your clay – again, sparingly. If you are using Pearlex on the surface however, you do need to put some sort of sealant onto your clay. Johnson's Klear Floor polish is a good sealant (for those of you in the UK) – available from

your supermarket and very cheap (hmm – just done myself out of some sales of Studio Glossy glaze or Studio Satin Glaze!)

Innovation is the creation of the new or the re-arranging of the old in a new way.

Michael Vance

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