

We All Have To Start From Somewhere



Welcome polymer clay beginner!

Polymer clay (pc) has a way of pulling you in. Once it's in your hands wonderful ideas will start to emerge. The feel of it somehow stimulates the creative side of the brain. At least that's how it affects me. Just try it if you don't believe me. Once you have learned how to properly handle and manipulate this tempting medium, then you can begin creating unique art with it. With just a little practice the results are endless.

Investing the time and energy in studying pc can be a joyful and rewarding experience. Practice and patience will eventually lead you to creating some unique art. While craftsmanship is a must, polymer clay (pc) art doesn't have to look manufactured. As with any art medium, pc art can also capture and guide the viewer's attention with purpose. Good art doesn't attract everyone. What connects with one viewer may appear less appealing to another.

While there are many brands available, "Premo" made by Sculpey is what I started with. It's soft and easy to condition. Once baked, it's durable. FIMO is also one of the better brand clays. I use it mostly to create jewelry and accessories, as well as bas relief painting and sculptures.

Don't feel that you have to buy every color you see. I know how tempting it can be. They all look so yummy. Just try to control yourself. You can do it. Begin your pc adventure with nine packages: The three primaries being yellow, blue, and red, as well as black, white, gold, silver, pearl, and transparent. You'll be amazed at the possibilities with just these colors. Then later if pc is right for you, go for it and add more to your palette.

Here is where you should treat yourself extra special. Invest in a book for beginner to intermediate levels to get started. Become familiar with pc and the rules that apply. All art mediums have certain limitations and requirements. The same is true with pc. You very well may find books other than those suggested here as new publications will have been released since this article was posted.

‘Polymer Clay, The Weekend Crafter’ by Irene Semanchuk Dean

‘The Polymer Clay Techniques Book’ by Sue Heaser

Both books include loads of pc information as well as step by step instructions alongside colorful images to help guide the learning process. There are 70 wonderful projects between the two books.

Required tools are listed in most pc books like the two mentioned here. They're available in art and craft stores and online stores where pc is sold. You can also make your own tools, or even salvage through the kitchen and garage for the sake of art.

*Once a kitchen utensil has been used with pc then it should not be used again for cooking or eating purposes.

You don't have to be talented to learn and enjoy the art of pc, but once you do, you will be amazed at the talent you never knew you had.

Visit the website's 'TECHNIQUES' under 'CLAY' for more information.

Explore! Experiment! Create!

C J