

The London Polymer Clay Group is growing and going nationwide with people travelling from Gloucester, Manchester and Kent to join us and at the March clay day 22 came, some new and some old hands.

A warm welcome to new visitors Angela, Toni, Selina, Mel and Christina.

We began the day seeing the class work pieces that Sue Margetts and Angela Smith had made during 3 days of workshops at Clay Corbieres Creatives1 near Narbonne in the south of France recently. Christine Dumont and myself were among the 6 tutors there and Christine showed some of the hollow beads from the project she taught.

The 'show and tell' table was full of newly made creations, giving rise to lots of questions and discussions.

Our next demo was more of a show and talk.

Ann and Emily Parker and Janet Roemmel had been working on colour mood boards following directions in 'Polymer Clay Color Inspiration' by Maggie Maggio and Lindly Haunani. They had been scouring magazines and the internet for interesting pictures, colours and textures. They tore these out and pasted them onto large pieces of card. They were beautiful and I can see there will be many inspirational ideas coming from these. I'll look out for mood board inspired polymer pieces appearing on the 'show and tell' table at the next clay day!

After lunch Julie Smallwood demo'd Faux Ceramic. Julie had found the free tutorial on the internet, a simple but very effective technique. All you need is white clay, liquid polymer clay and some coloured spirit inks and a rubber stamp or two, as well as a craft heat gun. After baking a piece of white clay impressed with a rubber stamp, she mixed liquid clay and a drop of Ranger's Adirondack spirit ink, which she applied to the 'valleys' of the impression. This was baked again for 20mins. After baking it had a dull matte appearance but here is where the heat gun comes in. After heating the 'tile' the surface went from matte to shiny! It looked just like a piece of glazed ceramic. Where Julie left the hot gun a little too long and slightly burnt the clay, it looked exactly like the worn edge on a tile!



'Show and Tell' table



Angela's class work



Faux ceramic samples

The remainder of the day was spent with some people having a go at the faux ceramic and generally talking polymer as only polymer people know how!

We formed a informal steering group to organise the LPCG as it continues to expand. You'll be hearing more about this at the next meeting, which will be on **Sunday 16th May** at the London Bubble, Rotherhithe.

Oh! yes, it will be our 3rd anniversary and so we hope to have lots of people helping us celebrate the occasion.

See you on 16th May.  
Carol

Report and photos by Carol Blackburn



Mood boards and colour samples



Clayers at work