

Beaux Bangles with Polymer Clay Workshop

After weeks of planning, on the 22nd May we held the first of a series of polymer clay workshops organised by Rebecca Thickbroom of Clectic Events.

The Beaux Bangles workshop was at the Old Mortuary in Rotherhithe, South London. This listed building has been refurbished as the Time and Talents centre for craft workshops, dance and music classes and we had full use of the building and garden.

Rebecca and I arrived early to set up the rooms and by 9.00 am people began arriving eager to get started.

As soon as the doors were opened at 9.30 am, everyone flooded in and greeted old and new friends, set up their workplaces, pinned on their name tags and grabbed a coffee.

The workshop, sponsored by Staedtler with a generous donation of Fimo clay for all 20 attendees, began at 10.00 am with a welcome message and short introduction by Rebecca and me about the day ahead.

After the first demo on making the bangle base, everyone chose either a coke can or a metal ring to make a small or large clay bangle. While these bangle bases were baked, we prepared decorative clay sheets with feathered patterns to go on them. I did many demos during the day and had lots of bangle samples to show a variety of ways of decorating the simple bangle shape.

In the afternoon after a light lunch of sandwiches and quiches, everyone carefully fitted the patterned clay sheet on their bangle bases and baked them. Afternoon tea was squeezed in between the various bakings.

After the final bake, when everyone had sanded their bangles and many had buffed theirs on the buffing wheel, we had a show of the day's work and a raffle of goodies donated by Staedtler.

The day ended with a group photo outside in the garden with everyone wearing their newly made bangles. Then we began packing up, saying our goodbyes and leaving the Old Mortuary as we had found it.

Although the workshop was held in an old mortuary, there was nothing spooky about the day which was a buzz of chatting and hard concentrated work as wonderful bangles emerged from everyone.

Thanks to all who came and made the day so special. Also many thanks to Rebecca and her organising skills for keeping the refreshments table replenished with tea, coffee and biscuits and for preparing the delicious lunch and afternoon tea.

We have planned two more workshops for this year all sponsored by Staedtler and more to come in 2012. The next two workshops will be from my series called 'Tools of the Trade'. The first is on **21st August 2011** called '**The Ripple Effect**' using the ripple blade and on **20th November 2011** I'll be teaching '**Extrusions**' using the extruder tool.

Hope to see you there!

For information and to register for these workshops please contact – rebecca@clectic-events.co.uk

