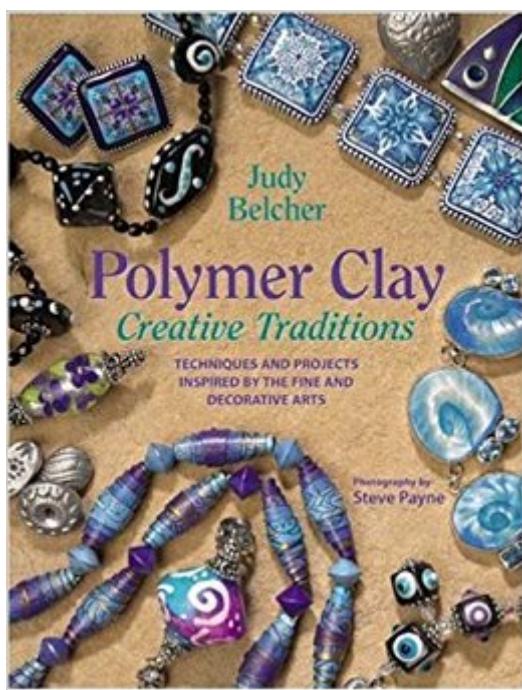


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# Polymer Clay Creative Traditions: Techniques And Projects Inspired By The Fine And Decorative Arts



## **Synopsis**

Thousands of crafters have discovered that polymer clay is versatile, easy to use, and just plain fun. Now they can use this exciting medium to create remarkable new work inspired by the decorative arts of the past. Polymer Clay Creative Traditions lets both beginners and experienced artisans draw inspiration from painting and drawing, ethnic carving, quilting, ceramics, sculpture, glass, metalwork, and more. Through 300 stunning photographs and fascinating text, author Judy Belcher reveals how these influences can be expressed in polymer clay. An introduction on the history and handling, plus tips and techniques throughout the book, make Polymer Clay Creative Traditions an invaluable guide to creating works of art that blend a great material of today with the greatest design ideas of yesterday.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Watson-Guptill (January 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823040658

ISBN-13: 978-0823040650

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.4 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 48 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #934,853 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #118 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Polymer Clay #401 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Pottery & Ceramics #816 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Reference

## **Customer Reviews**

Addressing novices to the medium of polymer clay as well as more advanced crafters in the field, Belcher prepares an attractive handbook on making clay items; the more than 30 projects suggested here are inspired by traditions in working in glass, metal, fiber, painting and drawing, stone and bone and wood, and ceramics, since, as the author states, "polymer clay is the only medium that can emulate all of those different art forms." Gorgeous color photographs highlighting her work and the work of many other successful crafters guide the reader through a mouthwatering, even surprising, display of clay things to make, from beads that take after ones made of glass, to an enameled pin that would be a lovely accent to a blouse or blazer, to replications of Georgia

O'Keeffe-type flowers to decorate a purse. For crafters adding more crafts to their repertoire. Brad HooperCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Judy Belcher is the president and a founding member of the Kanawha Valley, West Virginia, Polymer Clay Guild and a member of the National Polymer Clay Guild. Her work in polymer clay has been featured in many juried exhibitions, and she has made many appearances to demonstrate her techniques in polymer clay, on television and at trade shows, stores, and schools. She lives in St. Albans, WV. Steve Payne is a commercial photographer known for his fine art landscape, nature, and portrait photography. He lives in Charleston, WV.

Polymer clay is gaining in popularity, and with that popularity comes a variety of books that cover much of the same territory. Judy Belcher's book takes a fresh approach. Judy investigates the many styles of other decorative art forms and applies the characteristics of those art forms to clay. The results are stunning, enlightening and invigorating. Batik, millefiori, lampwork, quilting, cloisonne...all these forms--and more--are applied to clay. While this book was not targeted towards the beginning clayer, it does have a variety of projects at many skill levels, enabling all who read it to successfully complete the project and learn the technique. Judy's skill with clay, her eye for design, her love of the medium and her imaginative spirit all come through in this book. I'm still stunned with her attempt at imitating pointillism--paintings created by using tiny dots of color--using polymer clay. This book will definitely be getting a bit of wear and tear. I've read it twice from cover to cover, and I continue to go through it to learn more.

#### GREAT POLYMER BOOK. HAS SOME NEW TECHNIQUES.

First--as noted with the low-star reviews, this book is not for beginners, and not for everyone. The book presumes a working knowledge of polymer clay techniques and doesn't try to fill that gap. Do not buy this as your first PC book. The book is also aimed at a very high-end audience, people who want to make fine craft. Most of the examples could easily win display space at the top craft shows, with \$2000 booth fees. I recognize some of these slides from ads in Niche and Crafts Report and maybe even American Craft. Not your average street fair stuff. That said, this is NOT your average street fair stuff. If you've been hanging around the edges of PC, knowing that it had possibilities and wondering why it was you never really liked any of the work you saw, buy Belcher. If the Lark book about PC makes you breathe hard and you can't figure out how to make those items, buy this

book. Two very revealing quotes: "The precise cuts and angles in this millefiori cane took days to construct." (Sandra McCaw) "Taking up to a month to build a single cane," (Sarah Nelson Shriver). OK. We're talking mastery here. PC holding its own with faceted stones and silver settings. PC that looks like adult jewelry and not just something I'd wear on Saturday morning. There's a lot in here I'm never going to make, but for the techniques I couldn't work out on my own and for the inspiration, it's the best. (But it still doesn't tell how McCaw builds her canes...)

Really liked this book. Wish there were some more techniques shown but loved the multiple gallery's they showed to give you ideas of projects to make.

Judy Belcher has written an inspirational and educational book that will appeal to novice and experienced polymer clay artists alike. The photography is used thoughtfully to illustrate the techniques and present gallery work. Belcher includes polymer clay pierces inspired by traditional work done in glass; metal; fiber; painting and drawing; stone, bone and wood and sculpture and ceramics. I would not want Belcher's book to be the only book about polymer clay in my library but it is an excellent reference when trying to achieve a particular effect for my work.

Judy Belcher uses a large variety of the traditional techniques of art to propel her experimentation with polymer clay in new directions. For example, she looks at painting, sculpture, ceramics, and so on. Clearly a virtuoso, she shows us how a creative artist finds inspiration in artistic traditions. A project is included for each tradition, and she also shows us how she makes those incredible mosaic tiles shown in the bracelet on the cover. A great read for those who love art history, and really gets the creative juices flowing for a polymer clay artist.

I received this book in the mail yesterday afternoon and I haven't put it down since. It is jam packed with idea, tutorials, inspiration... I can't stop looking at everything. There aren't too many Polymer Clay books that I truly feel are worth buying because they are all so hit and miss- only 25% of the content in those books are useful and/or interesting to me. I actually own more glass bead books because I have learned more about layering and design and color from those than most PC books. I have yet to find a PC book that really suited my needs- innovative projects with great suggestions and galleries. Until now. This book is not only a great resource, it's also an invitation to explore- and Belcher provides the map. If you have any interest in Polymer Clay or seeing what the potential of the medium is, you must buy this book. There's a bunch of projects, as well as most inspiring set of

gallery pages in any PC book I have seen. Almost everything in here is a keeper. I hope this book is the first in a series, because I can think of hundreds of artists whose techniques could be interpreted in clay. I can see a "Creative Traditions: Art Noveau", "Creative Traditions: Pop Art", "Creative Traditions: Impressionism", etc. Thank you thank you thank you, Ms. Belcher, for finally raising the bar on Polymer Clay books and for creating a publication that belongs in every artist's library.

I met this author in Tamarak where she was selling her book and displaying pieces she had made. Her work is SO impressive, and the contributing artists are equally so. Several of my friends saw my book once I got it home and bought it immediately themselves! Her work is very detailed and original--a terrific resource as well as a beautiful book! You will NOT regret this purchase!

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