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A beautiful springtime creation
by Brenda Brown

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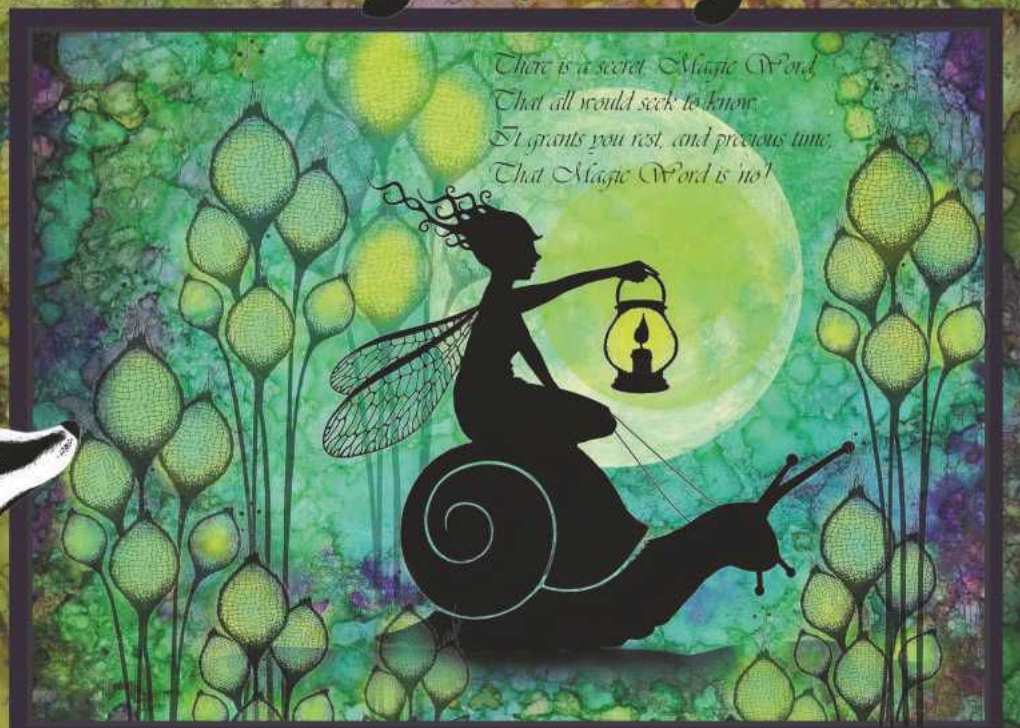
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A note from the Editor



Trish Latimer
Editor

Hello!

Welcome to our April issue!

Spring is upon us, and we have lots of fabulous inspiration in this issue to bring new life into your mixed media projects!

We have a very spring-like egg theme going on in our 3D Challenge feature! The Brand Ambassadors from Relics & Artifacts by Sandra Evertson have outdone themselves, with some absolutely stunning art work featuring the Imperial Egg cast resin piece from the range. Check out the gallery on page 54.

Brenda Brown has created the wonderful assemblage that graces our cover. Another spring themed work for you to admire, and have a go at creating yourselves. Just gorgeous!

We are welcoming Kath Stewart to the Craft Stamper family this issue.

Kath is renowned for her amazing art, and she has created a wonderful canvas for us this month, see for yourselves on page 6. We are so lucky to have you on board Kath!

Do you create Inchies? Maybe in months past but not any more? We think Inchies should make a comeback! Roc Nicholas shares a fabulous way to store them on page 14, and we launch our own Art Call for Inchies on page 17. We can't wait to see your creations!

We also have an wonderful floral project by Tracy Scott, a inspirational Masterclass from Chris Dark on Alcohol inks, and a gallery full of 'April Showers' themed cards in this issue! Lots for you all to experiment with, and don't forget, I would love to see what you create! Email me, or share on our Facebook page!

Have a wonderfully crafty month everyone!

Trish xxx



Editor's Pick – Page 80

Amanda is our first ever double winner of the Craft Stamper blog challenge, not surprising when you see her winning project! The crackle detail is absolutely stunning!

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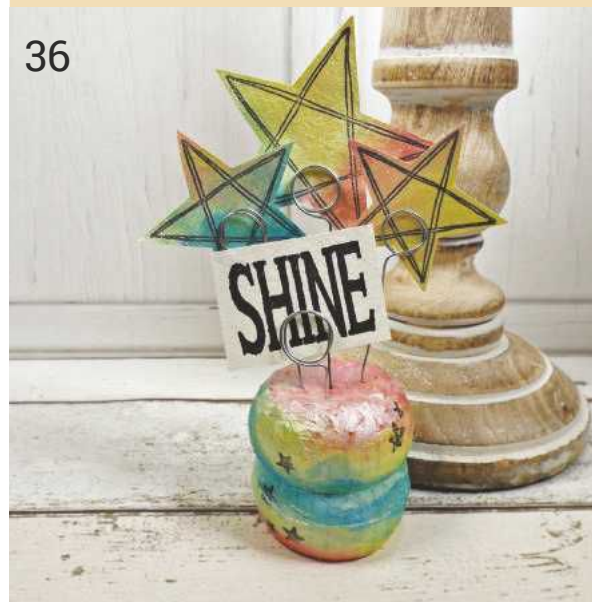


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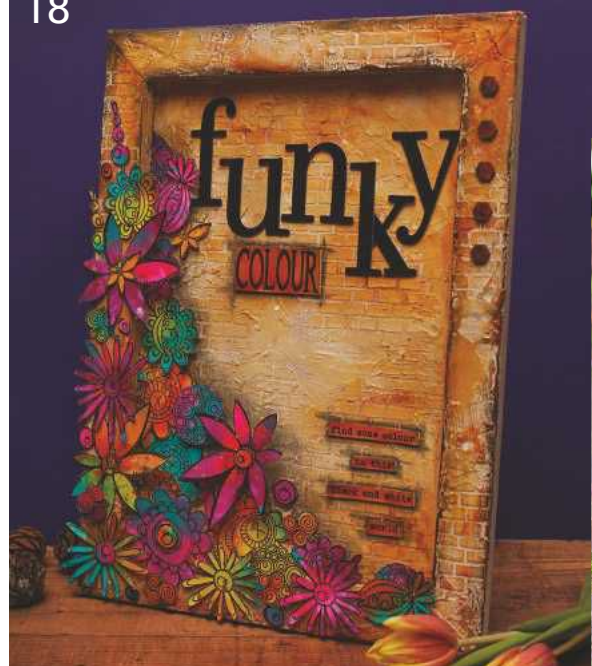
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“With the long dark winter days behind us and spring to look forward to, I was inspired by some of my favourite chalk paint colours to decorate a canvas with a bright, modern and slightly retro look.”



Step into Spring with PaperArtsy

Use sets of smaller coordinating stamps and stencils to create more cohesive projects. By Kath Stewart

DESIGNER TIP...

Don't overload the foam when stencilling... less is more and little and often is the way to do it.

I am so excited about the latest release of stamps and stencils released by PaperArtsy from the designer Lin Brown. I have always loved stamp sets that don't have one particular focal image but rather lots of smaller images. The collections of smaller designs are ideal for creating layered backgrounds without the bulk on a variety of mixed media projects.

PaperArtsy stamps are made from high quality red rubber, give super crisp stamped images and work particularly well when used alongside PaperArtsy's fast drying Fresco Finish Chalk paints.

Canvas can be a tricky surface to work on because of its texture but I thought this would work well with the distressed look of the stamps so I only applied a light colourwash of chalk paints to retain the texture.

I decided to push the boat out by trying different stamping techniques such as stamping with paint. I also decided to think outside the box and use the retro circle stamp to create spring inspired lollipop style flowers.



Meet the Designer,
Kath Stewart

"I am a freelance tutor and demonstrator and so lucky to do what I love and love what I do. I realised many years ago that magic happens when you put inks, stamps, papers and paints together and have been on a wonderful journey of discovery ever since."

Explore her work online:
www.kath-allthatglitter.blogspot.co.uk

Materials

Stamps Kath used...

- PaperArtsy by Lin Brown: ELB 31; ELB 34

Other materials...

- PaperArtsy Fresco Finish Chalk Paints: Antarctica; Lake Wanaka; Tango; Granny Smith; Haystack
- Paperartsy stencils by Lin Brown PSO 43; PSO 44
- Hobbycraft: Canvas 8" x 10"
- Ranger: Cut n' Dry Foam
- VersaMark: Embossing ink
- VersaFine ink: Onyx Black
- Ranger Embossing Powder: Super Fine White; Clear
- Letraset pen: 05 Black
- Buttons
- Twine
- Baby wipes
- Heat tool

Go Shopping!

Stamps, stencils and paints are all available from PaperArtsy online at www.shop.paperartsy.co.uk and various retail outlets and craft stores throughout the UK



Step-by-step... Stencil and Stamp Layering



1 Tap a baby wipe into Antarctica, Lake Wanaka and Granny Smith and wipe across the canvas.

2 Stencil the large flower from PSO 44 randomly on the canvas using Granny Smith Chalk Paint and Cut 'n Dry foam.

3 Ink the bubble rectangle and line of squares images from ELB 34 with VersaMark ink and heat emboss with Super Fine White embossing powder.

4 Stamp the retro circle and lines stamps with VersaFine Onyx Black ink.

5 Apply Tango Chalk Paint to dots stamp using fingers. Use the Letraset pen to create a faux dotty shadow round the dots.

6 Fill in spaces with more icons and words inked with VersaFine Onyx Black.

7 Paint card with Granny Smith, Haystack and Tango. Stamp retro circle and skeleton leaf with Onyx Black ink, heat emboss with clear embossing powder and cut out.

8 Stencil 'Dreams' from PSO 43 onto card stock using chalk paint. Cut out, colour the edges with Tango to create word tiles.

9 Stamp sentiment with Onyx Black onto card and use a punch to create the flower centre. Fix the leaves and circles in place to create the flowers.

To finish the project: Decorate the flower circles with a double twine bow and buttons and fix the word tiles in place.

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“There is something almost magical about embossing powder and all the techniques you can do with it. Clear powder is probably my favourite and I love the glassy effect of multiple layers of powder. Combine the powder with Distress Ink for a multitude of coloured options.”





Meet the designer:

Anna-Karin Evaldsson

"I started papercrafting in 2002 and I am so happy that I discovered the joy of making art with stamps, paper, dies, ink and paint."

Explore her work online:

www.layersofink.blogspot.com

Materials

Stamps Anna-Karin used...

- Stamper's Anonymous Tim Holtz: Rosette and Floret; Newsprint and Type

Other materials...

- Ranger Tim Holtz Distress Ink: Mermaid Lagoon; Hickory Smoke; Twisted Citron; Ground Espresso; Black Soot
- Ranger Embossing Powder: Clear
- Ranger Emboss It Dabber
- Sizzix Tim Holtz: Tag and Bookplates; Mini Globe; Adventure Words Script; Postage Stamp Frame
- Ranger Tim Holtz: Distress Mixed Media Heavystock Cardstock
- We R Memory Keepers: Crop-a-Dile; Standard Eyelets
- Tim Holtz Core'dinations: Kraft-Core Cardstock
- Tim Holtz idea-ology: Quote Bands; Typed Tokens; Souvenir Adornments; Correspondence Design Tape; Laboratoire Tissue Tape; Correspondence Paper Stash; jump rings; long fasteners; wire pins; jute string
- Ranger Tim Holtz Distress Paint: Antique Linen
- Ranger Tim Holtz: Distress Matte Medium
- Tim Holtz Tiny Attacher
- Heat tool
- Cardboard
- Old book paper

Multi-Layered Embossing

Layer your embossing to achieve beautifully detailed effects. By Anna-Karin Evaldsson

Multiple layers of clear embossing can create a surface resembling vintage glass and give a sense of depth. You can stop adding clear powder after two layers, and then the first layer of melted powder will stand out slightly from the second. But if you want more of a faux glass effect, continue adding layers of powder. When heat embossing, you have to be very careful not to burn yourself. Do not touch the melted powder at all until it has cooled down completely.

Dye inks can be hard to use for heat embossing, but Distress Ink is formulated to stay wet longer, which makes it great for heat embossing. Don't wait too long before applying the powder to the stamped impression, as it won't stick well if the ink has started to dry.

The technique works best on smooth, relatively heavy paper. I used Distress Mixed Media Heavystock, but a paper like manila cardstock would also work well. Experiment with what you have at hand. If your paper warps a bit, you can place it under a book. Fine cracks might appear, which only adds to the look.

TIME SAVING IDEA...

If you want to build up a thick embossed layer even quicker, use Ultra Thick Embossing Enamel instead of ordinary embossing powder.



Go Shopping!

Ranger products are widely available from good craft retailers worldwide. For more information on Ranger products visit www.rangerink.com

Stamper's Anonymous stamps, Tim Holtz idea-ology products and Sizzix Alterations are available from Country View Crafts, www.countryviewcrafts.co.uk, 01767 262 304

Sizzix dies are available from www.sizzix.co.uk, 0844 499 8181



Step-by-step... Layered Embossing



1 Stamp tag with Rosette background stamp and Twisted Citron Distress Ink.

2 Quickly cover tag with clear embossing powder, remove excess and heat emboss.

3 Ink tag with Mermaid Lagoon and Hickory Smoke Distress Ink, darkening towards edges.

4 Again, cover tag with clear powder and heat emboss. You could stop here.

5 Apply embossing ink, cover with clear powder, heat emboss and repeat three to four times.

6 Die cut a Mini Globe from Mixed Media Heavystock Cardstock, or another smooth cardstock.

7 Stamp with a Newsprint stamp and Mermaid Lagoon ink. Apply clear powder and emboss.

8 Ink globe with Hickory Smoke and Black Soot and apply clear powder as before. Add more layers of powder.

9 Glue globe to book paper. As you can see, the layered embossing works well on detailed die cuts.

To finish the project: Use a piece of cardstock (20.5 cm x 16 cm or 8" x 6.4") as a base for the wall hanging and tear off the top layer. Ink with Ground Espresso. Make holes and set eyelets with a Crop-a-Dile tool. Die cut a Postage Stamp Frame from Kraft-Core cardstock and sand the edges. Layer a piece of patterned paper, small piece of old book paper and the Postage Stamp Frame behind the tag. Adhere tissue tape to the bottom of the tag and tie strings at the top. Die cut words from black cardstock. Glue everything down with Matte Medium. Rub Antique Linen paint into idea-ology embellishments and add to the wall hanging.

In the Details...



Combining the smooth glass-like finish of the embossing powder with textural accents such as twine adds interest to the finished piece.

Giveaway!

We have a large pot of Ranger UTEE
(Ultra Thick Embossing Enamel)
to give away to one lucky reader!

To enter, log on to www.craftstamper.com and
click on the Win! tab. All our current giveaways
will be displayed there. Good Luck!





"I have a huge fondness for inchies. They are relatively quick and easy to put together and can be made with leftover scraps. I decided to combine my passion of journalling with my love of inchies into a single project to create a journal to house some of my extra inchies."



Give Me an Inch

Create a stunning journal to show off your Inchie Art! By Roc Nicholas

To make this journal I used thin cardboard for the covers and paper coasters for the pages. For the front cover, I stamped the angel on a piece of white scrap paper, roughed up the edges with a distressing tool and added brown chalk ink to the edge to give it an aged appearance. To adorn the angel, I made her a crown out of shrink plastic.

To create the flowers, I used tiny flower punches to create the paper petals and then layered them up and secured in place with small brads. To complete the piece, I used several tiny tags, added distressed white cording and then adhered everything in place.



Meet the Designer,
Roc Nicholas

"I love to journal, doodle, collage, use rubber stamps, recyclable objects, and have a lot of laughs in the process of making whimsical art."

Explore her work online:
www.whatsuproc.blogspot.com

Materials

Stamps Roc used...

- Paula Best: Angel
- Stampendous: Crown

Other materials...

- Paper coasters
- Bind It All
- Binding wires
- Printed cardstock
- Baseball card plastic sheets
- Ribbon
- Brads
- Flower punches
- Shrinky Dink
- Stickers
- Digital imagery
- Ink pads
- Rub Ons
- Marker: Yellow
- Tiny tags



In the Details...



I cut various patterned paper pieces to fit the covers and inside pages. I cut the plastic sleeves into individual sections that I could sew onto the paper to form the square pockets for the inchies. I used a zig zag stitch and roughly sewed the plastic into six sections. Once the plastic was sewn onto the cardstock, I used my Exacto knife to carefully cut little slits at the very top of the squared off sections so I would be able to slide my inches into the individual pouches.



It was then time to glue all those finished sewn pages onto the paper coasters. I finished decorating all the inside edges with ephemera and digital images and used brown ink to give the edges of the pages a distressed look.

I used my Bind It All to punch the holes and secured the journal together with binding wire. This journal was fun to make and could be made any size for any art you might want to use it for!



Inchie Art Call!

Inchies are fun and quick to make, and we think we should all be making more of them! The inchie craze seems to have waned a bit recently, so we thought we would kick start it again. We plan on having a reader's gallery jam-packed full of inspirational inchies, so we would love you to share your Inchie Art with us!



All you need to do is:
Take a high resolution, clear photo of your inchie on a white background.
Email the photo as a .jpeg file to:
editor.cs@mytimemedia.com



We are looking for lots of inchies, so everyone can submit a maximum of FIVE for this art call.
Any themes, any colours!



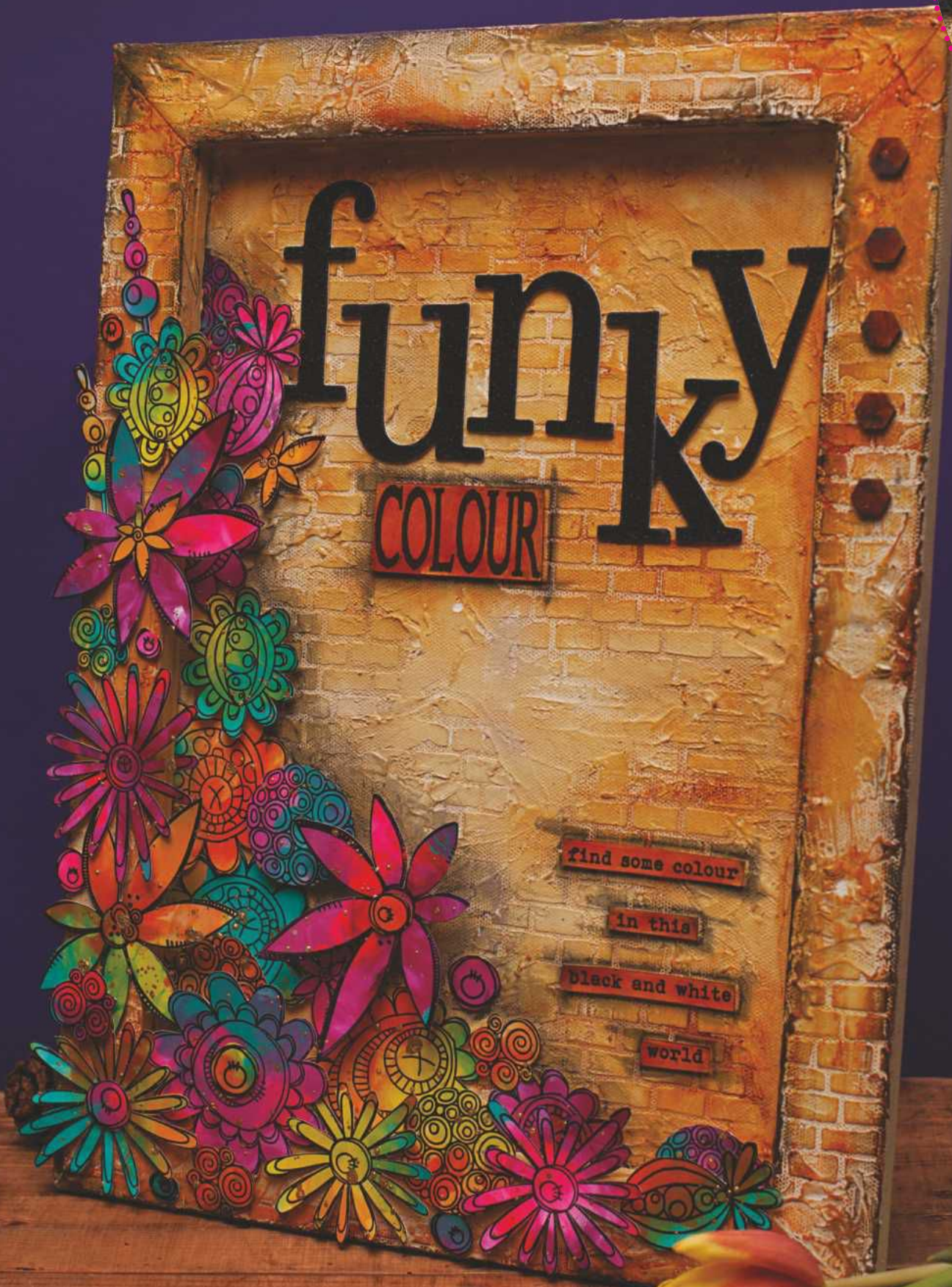
The closing date for the Inchie Art Call is April 1st (no joke!), and we will contact you if your Inchie/s have been chosen to feature in the gallery.

Good Luck!





“The anticipation of lazy summer days and the vibrant bursts of colour from nature in the garden inspired this technique. The vibrancy of the paints are just stunning and are the perfect match for these stamps.”



Over the Garden Wall

Look forward to the beauty of the warmer months and the inspiration they bring! By Tracy Scott

WHY NOT TRY?

Creating painted sheets of card and using them with either paper punches or dies for cutting out beautiful coloured shapes to add to projects.

As the darker evenings are starting to give way and we are heading towards what will hopefully be a glorious summer, I start to think about barbeques in the sun, fun with the family and all the beautiful colour that will spring to life in the garden over the next few months.

The promise of all this lovely colour inspired me to create this project; the stunning colours of nature against old brick and stone always conjures up a romantic English garden feel for me and whilst my flowers are definitely not subtle, I just adore the way they look against the neutral brick background created on the canvas.

Creating a masterboard background certainly sped up the process of creating this project as it allowed me to produce a variety of different coloured flowers without having to spend hours colouring them all individually. What's better is you never know quite what you will get!

I'm completely in love with this project and I feel that the vibrant colours of the paint evoke a real sense of anticipation and happiness for the coming months. Bring on the summer!



Meet the Designer,
Tracy Scott

"When I am not at the 'day job' as a Finance Officer in East London, I'm obsessed by all things bright, painty, inky and messy!"

Explore her work online:

www.heartistry@studio7.blogspot.co.uk,
www.facebook.com/myjournalingjourney

Materials

Stamps Tracy used...

- PaperArtsy: Eclectica ETS06; ETS07; ETS08; EEG17

Other materials...

- Ranger Archival ink: Black
- Amsterdam Acrylic paint: Turquoise Blue; Olive Green Light; Azo Orange; Quinacridone Rose; Perm Red Purple; Primary Yellow
- Golden Acrylic paint: Quinacridone Nickel Azo Gold
- Dina Wakley Media Acrylic paint: Umber
- PaperArtsy Fresco Finish paint: Gold
- Stabilo Aquarellable pencil: Black
- Tando Creative Andy Skinner Industrial Elements: Chipboards

Go Shopping!

Black Archival ink, Golden Acrylic paint, Amsterdam Acrylic paint and Dina Wakley Media Acrylic paint are all available from Art From The Heart, www.afth.co.uk, 01423 873739

PaperArtsy stamps and Gold Fresco Finish paint are available from PaperArtsy, www.paperartsy.co.uk, 01277 212911

Tando Creative Kit available from Tando Creative, www.tando-creative.co.uk, 07813 363498



Step-by-step... Mixed Media Canvas Using a Floral Masterboard



1 Work on the back of the canvas. Using modelling paste and a palette knife, create a random brick pattern and spread excess paste in remaining areas.

2 Apply a thin coat of Titan buff over the whole piece, then, with your finger, lightly rub Quinacridone paint over the surface to pick up the texture of the paste.

3 Onto smooth white card, finger paint colour patches until covered. Repeat with different colours onto a second piece of card.

4 Using black Archival ink and a mix of stamps, stamp randomly all over the painted card, filling up the pages.

5 Splatter the designs with watered down gold paint, then, cut out all stamped images using scissors or a craft knife.

6 Arrange flowers around the canvas and adhere with 3D double sided foam tape (alter height of flowers by adding more foam tape).

To finish the project: Add chipboard letters and a stamped quote to the canvas. I added watersoluble pencil around the edge of my quote, and around the flower designs. Once activated with water, this gives the designs shadow and depth, and allows them to stand out from the canvas. For a finishing touch, I wanted to add some rusted 'nuts'. I used the Andy Skinner set of chipboard pieces from Tando Creative for the nuts and created a simple rust effect by rubbing over them with the Quinacridone Gold paint as well as a touch of Umber and dried this immediately with a heat gun so it would bubble the paint slightly.

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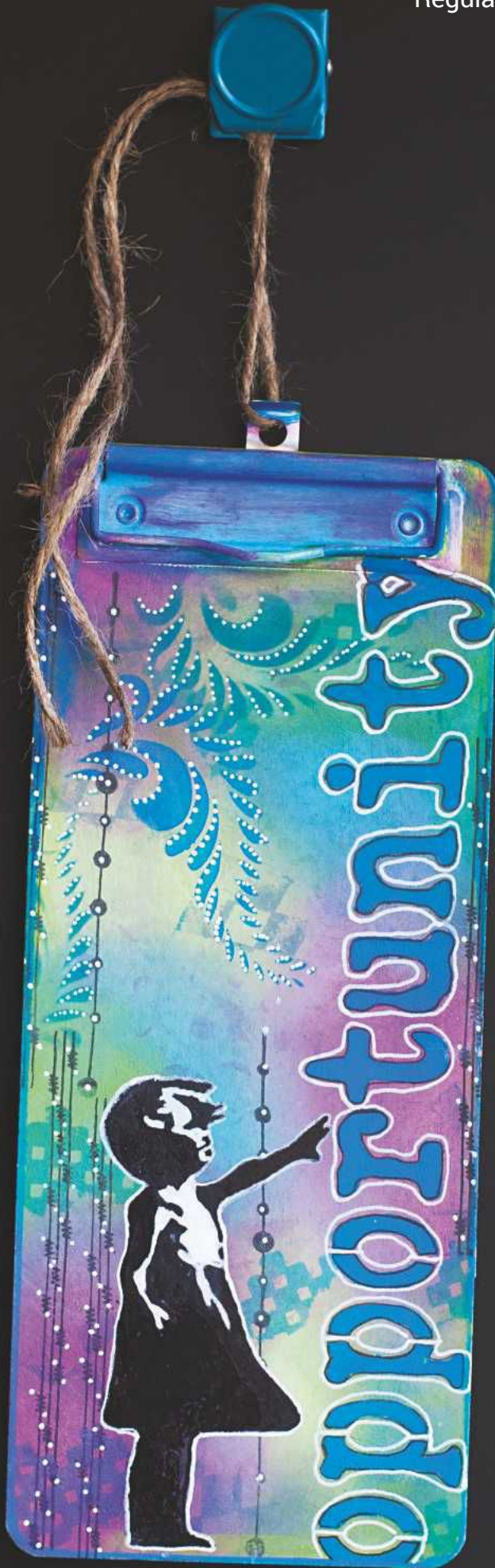


HOCHANDA
HOME OF CRAFTS HOBBIES AND ARTS

Hochanda is a shopping channel dedicated to educating, entertaining and inspiring Craft and Hobbies enthusiasts of all kinds. In our new regular feature, we will be showcasing some of the amazing craft companies that share demonstrations and a whole lot of wonderful crafty stash over on Hochanda TV! We are thrilled to welcome Beverley Tonks, designer for Bee Crafty, to our new As Seen On TV feature!



"This project was so much fun to make and I love that it's a functional item. Making everyday items pretty with stamps is something I love to do!"





Meet the Retailer, Bee Crafty

Bee Crafty, run by Crafters for Crafters, is a one stop shop of all things crafty, including their own brand range of polymer stamps.

Explore their products online:
www.beecrafty.net

Opportunity and Hope Clipboard

By Bee Crafty Designer, Beverley Tonks

This fab project was made using the Bee Crafty Inspired by Banksy XL Hope stamp and the Inkables Opportunity A4 template. I love using paints and inks with stamps and templates on all sorts of projects, so I couldn't resist having a play with this clipboard!

Like a lot of my projects, this evolved as I was making it, I first chose the clipboard and stamps and it grew from there. What's fantastic about this project is that the techniques could be transferred to all sorts of different projects such as altered art, MDF, art journalling and of course you could even adapt and resize the design for card projects.

To prepare the clipboard, I sprayed it with a white primer and left to dry overnight. I tend to prime in batches of assorted things, such as tags, clipboards and upcycling projects. This means I don't have to wait when I'm ready to craft and I can simply choose which substrate to work on and get started!

Materials

Stamps Beverley used...

- Bee Crafty Stamps: Inspired by Banksy Hope XL; Style Wire Borders; Texture Set

Other materials...

- Bee Crafty Inkables Template Inspired by Banksy: Photo Opportunity A4
- Bee Crafty D'Inkables: Feathery
- Bingo clipboard
- Dylusions paint
- Distress Inks
- Memento ink: Black
- Sharpie pen: White
- Fineliner pen: Black

DESIGNER TIP...

Make sure you use colours you love, and have a play with your favourites. If it all goes wrong you can always go over the top again.

Go Shopping!

All Bee Crafty stamps and products are available from Bee Crafty, www.BeeCrafty.co.uk as well as Hochanda.tv and www.hochanda.com!



Step-by-step... **Altered Clipboard: Inspired by Banksy**

1 On your primed clipboard, blend paints together to create a hazy background.

2 Paint through the 'opportunity' word from the A4 Inkable template onto the side of the board.

3 Use the Style Wire Border set and textures set to build the background design.

4 Stamp textures randomly using Distress Ink. Use Black Memento ink for the 'Style Wire Borders'.

5 Use Hope XL with Memento ink and stamp directly onto the onto the clipboard.

6 Using a Fineliner pen, draw around the 'opportunity' letters to give definition.

7 Use the D'inkable Feathery template with the same colour as used for the 'opportunity'.

8 Using a white Sharpie, add dots and highlights to different areas and colour in the detail of the girl.

9 Paint around the outside edges with a coordinating colour using a blending tool.

To finish the project: Paint the clip section of the clipboard and any findings to complete the design and keep the project cohesive.

TIME SAVING IDEA...

If you are priming MDF, do several bits at a time so they are ready as soon as inspiration hits.

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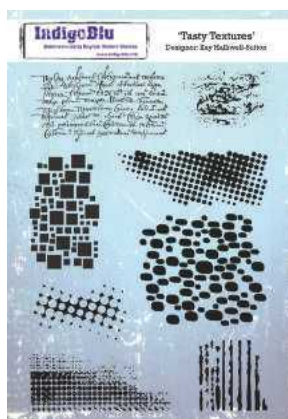
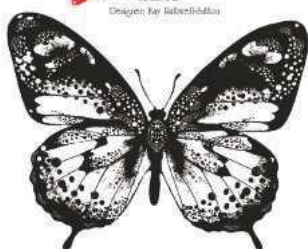
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▲ Flutterby Poppy Frame *By IndigoBlu Designer, Kay Molyneux*

Coarse textured paste was applied through the Damaged Damask stencil onto tissue paper. The tissue paper was then trimmed and glued to the frame, painted with IndigoBlu paints and highlighted with Luscious powder.

The poppies were stamped onto painted thin card, fussy cut out, crumpled, shaped and layered. Black microbeads were added to their centres. The Flutterby stamp was stamped three times onto IndigoBlu Perfect Stamping card with FlitterGlu and Mega-flake applied, then fussy cut out. They were then sponged with Distress Inks and shaped.

One of the designs from the Arts and Crafts paper pads made a wonderful photo mount, the inner frame was painted with the same paint as the frame. Images from Tasty Textures were stamped onto the photo mount and glass cover with FlitterGlu and Mega-flakes applied after. The frame was assembled, a vintage image added and the butterflies and poppies secured with dimensional glue with a few added leaves.



Card Art

“Ink sets that contain tonal shades are perfect for this technique as they combine different shades of inks that are perfect for building up layers. Play around with different ink pads and colour tones to create your own bespoke set! Dye ink pads work best for this.”





Stamping in Style

Use a layered stamping technique and Hunkydory stamps to create detailed surface pattern for effective card designs. By Kitty Frampton

I created this floral card using the three step stamping technique.

This process is created by stamping up layers of a stamp using different tones of ink to create a 3D effect without having to colour it. It is best to give yourself plenty of work space to do this technique so you can stamp out lots of designs at the same time. I use several ink blocks so each stamp has it's own, this speeds up the process and means you don't end up with inky hands. Here, I have used dye inks which dry almost instantly so you don't have to wait in between stamping each layer.



*Meet the Designer,
Kitty Frampton*

"I have been papercrafting for the last 11 years. I have dabbled in pretty much everything including scrapbooking, altered art, art journalling and cards. My passion is stamping, in every form possible. I love trying out new products, adore colouring, creating watercolour backgrounds and anything on trend."

kittyskrafty.blogspot.com
www.facebook.com/KittysCardsCreations
www.instagram.com/kittyskraftycards/

Materials

Stamps Kitty used...

- Hunkydory For The Love Of Stamps: Layering Flowers; Lowercase Letters

Other materials...

- Altenew: Mini Ink Set: Red Cosmos; Green Fields
- Digital diagonal stripe paper
- Black card

DESIGNER TIP...

Save time by stamping lots of images out at the same time. This is also good in case you make any colouring mistakes.

Go Shopping!

Hunkydory stamps are available from Hunkydory Crafts, www.hunkydorycrafts.co.uk

Step-by-step... Floral Layered Stamping



- 1 Cut card to measure 10cm x 14cm. Stamp flower outline with Coral Berry ink onto card.
- 2 Stamp the next layer of the flower using Ruby Red ink on top of the Coral Berry outline.
- 3 Stamp the background layer using Frosty Pink ink onto each of the flowers.
- 4 Stamp the middle leaf layer onto the card using Forest Glade ink.
- 5 Stamp the smallest leaf layer on top of each leaf using Evergreen ink.
- 6 Stamp the largest background leaf layer on top of the leaves using the Frayed Leaf Ink.

To finish the project: After creating the background I mounted the panel onto black card and glued directly onto a card blank. I cut a strip of black striped paper, mounted it onto black card and glued across the card. I then stamped the letters in black ink to spell the hello. I mounted this onto black card and attached it to the card with foam pads.



PENNY SAVERS...

Digital backgrounds are a great money saver as you only need to print out what you need so there's less waste.



“This project is number two of a collection I am making to depict our traditional holidays and seasons, I made a Christmas one last year which can be found at www.bumblebeesandbutterflies.com/2015/12/a-vintage-christmas.html”





*Meet the Designer,
Brenda Brown*

"I am an independent teacher and designer and am happiest when surrounded by inks, paints, mediums and stamps creating vintage or timeworn mixed media projects."

Explore her work online:
www.bumblebeesandbutterflies.com
[www.facebook.com/
profile.php?id=801579661](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=801579661)

Sweet Spring

Combine the tissue paper technique with three-dimensional adornments to craft a dazzling diorama! By Brenda Brown

Materials

Stamps Brenda used:

- Tim Holtz: Nature Walk; Classics #7; Classics #12; Perspective

Other materials...

- DecoArt Media Fluid Acrylic paints: Raw Umber; Titan Buff
- DecoArt Media Mediums: White Crackle Paint
- DecoArt Americana Decou-Page Sealer
- Distress Ink: Ground Espresso
- VersaFine ink: Onyx Black
- White tissue paper
- Journalling pens: Black; white
- Bought items from various craft stores for embellishing

Three-dimensional projects can create quite an impact in a display and I often use my handmade creations for those special times of the year when we add decorations to the house. This vintage spring-inspired assemblage piece includes birds, eggs and green moss for the promise of what the spring will bring to us in the northern hemisphere over the next few months.

The box I have used here can be found in craft shops and is sold as a tea light holder; I used the metal container to hold the little bird's nest.

Craft shops are full of embellishments for seasonal projects. I collect items as I see them and have a drawer full of little things like the birds and eggs to use this time of the year, as well as shells and such for the summer, pumpkins and toadstools for autumn and red berries and cones for winter.

I hope you have fun playing with the mixed media technique I have used on these panels, I'm sure it would work well on a canvas, board and even for card making. I just love how the crackles still show through the tissue paper after it has been stuck on!



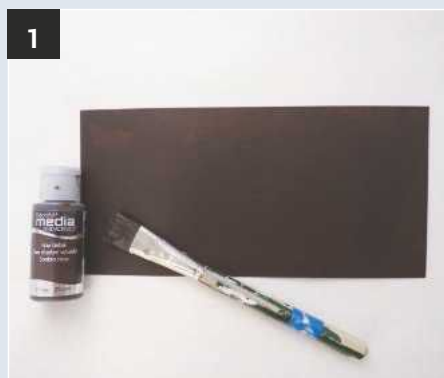
Go Shopping!

DecoArt Media paints and mediums, Tim Holtz stamps and Distress Inks are available from Country View Crafts, www.countryviewcrafts.co.uk, 01767 262304

MDF Box is available from Art of Craft, www.art-of-craft.co.uk, 01252 377677



Step-by-step... Stamped Box Panels



1 Cut card to cover all sides of the box and paint with Raw Umber acrylic paint to seal the surface.

2 When the card is dry, apply a layer of white Crackle Paint with a soft brush and leave it to dry naturally.

3 Take a piece of tissue paper and randomly stamp images using a permanent black ink.

4 Cut crackled card into four panels to fit sides of the box. Tear tissue for each side. Apply Decou-Page sealer, lay tissue on top, spritz with water and gently rub down.

5 When dry, sand edges of cards to get rid of tissue paper overhang and blend Ground Espresso Distress Ink over it. Apply another coat of Decou-Page to seal.

6 Gently heat dry and paint over with a wash of Titan Buff paint. Add colour with Distress Markers and bring back fine details with black and white pens.

To finish the project: Paint the box with Raw Umber paint, adhere the panels onto the four sides of the box and collect some spring elements to add to the top.

DESIGNER TIP...

When using DecoArt Crackle Paint, the size of the cracks are governed by the thickness of the application - the thinner the paint is applied the smaller the cracks.



In the Details...



Decorative moss, paper flowers, feathers and eggs are just some of the embellishments you could use to create a spring-like scene in the top of your decorated box.



The use of bird imagery on the box itself, along with the two delicate bird embellishments help to tie the theme together and give a wonderfully cohesive look.



Creative Upcycling



Shine

Upcycle a plastic washing liquid cup into a great piece of home décor. By Kim Dellow

DESIGNER TIP...

Don't make the wire too long otherwise the cup may topple over. Adjust the height of the wires before adding gel to hold them in place.



*Meet the Designer,
Kim Dellow*

"I fill my days with drinking lots of tea, creating and writing for craft magazines and blogs. It makes for a lovely week."

Explore her work online:
www.kimdellow.co.uk

What do you do with the old plastic cups that come with your clothes washing liquid when you get a new bottle? Chuck them in the recycling? Well, now you could turn them into some home décor! My Creative Upcycling project is precisely that, an old washing liquid cup turned into a pearlescent star holder decoration.

These washing liquid cups are easy to use in mixed media projects. All the ones that I have used so far take acrylic paint and gel mediums well. They don't peel and don't seem to need any pre-treating with sandpaper or gesso, although you can always try that if you have difficulty with yours.

Make sure that they are clean and dry and have no dried soap caked on the outside as this will stop the adhesion of paints and gels. Some of them even have their own unique texture, which you could use to add more interest to the final project.



Materials

Stamps Kim used...

- PaperArtsy Eclectica3 Emma Godfrey: EEG20

Other materials...

- Washing liquid cups
- Turner Acryl Gouache Colour Pearl Paint: Lemon; Red; Mint
- Gesso
- Khadi papers
- Docrafts: Papermania printed tissue paper
- Ranger Archival ink: Jet Black
- Golden Regular Gel: Gloss
- Wire
- Wire cutters
- Pliers
- Brushes
- Piercer

Step-by-step... Decorating a Washing Liquid Cup

- 1 Cover the washing-liquid cup with tissue paper using layers of gel medium and leave to dry completely.
- 2 Add a layer of gesso over the whole surface and let it dry completely.
- 3 Colour the gesso surface with the gouache paint, letting the colours blend into each other over the cup.
- 4 Let the cup dry completely then stamp the surface with some small stars.

To finish the project: Stamp the sentiment on Khadi paper and the stars on painted Khadi paper then cut them out. Pierce holes in the top of the cup and thread with wire bent into paper holders, add gel medium in the inside over the holes. Place the stars and sentiment in the wire holders.

Go Shopping!

PaperArtsy Eclectica3 Emma Godfrey EEG20 stamp available from That's Crafty, www.thatscrafty.co.uk, 01708 344146



Free gift Makes

Our Digital Images/Polymer Stamp Angel Policy: Anneke De Clerck, Shirley Bampton, Chris Dark and Trish Latimer own copyright over the original artwork, so you may not use these images to manufacture stamps or products for commercial use. You are free to use the images in any handmade project, including those for commercial sale. Any polymer stamping must be hand-stamped. Manipulating digital images by size or orientation is allowed. Do not share, sell or claim any stand alone image as your own.

April Images!

This month, we have another four wonderfully varied images to share!

Anneke De Clerck has designed the fabulous apple image for us, and she is sharing some inspirational projects featuring it on the following pages. Trish is sharing two creations made using the house image, great for all those new home cards!

A huge thank you must also go to Shirley Bampton for the incredibly useful flower image, and to Chris Dark for the wonderfully whimsical dog!

Don't forget, we would love to see all YOUR creations using our digital images!

Our digital images are available in a high quality PNG format. With a minimum dpi of 300, the images will not lose clarity when you size them up, and the PNG format means they have a transparent background, perfect for layering images, or for printing onto coloured or patterned papers!

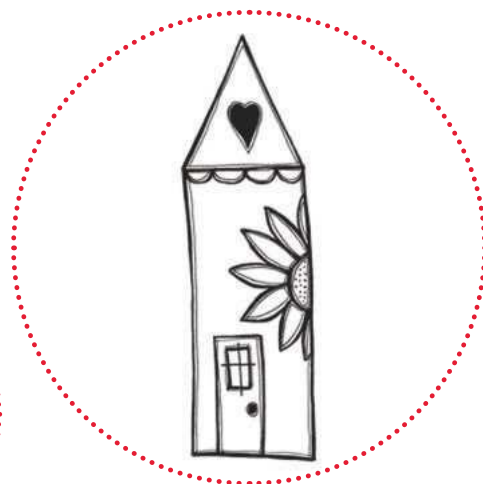
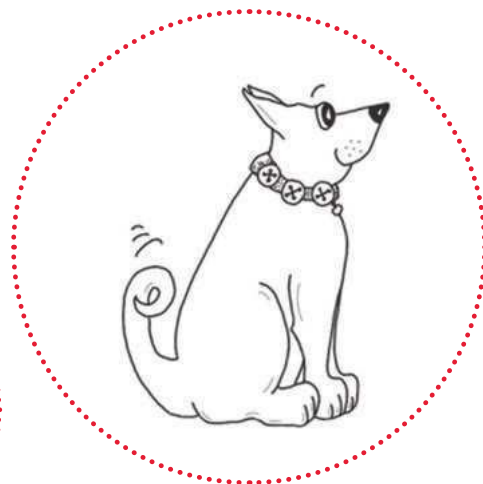
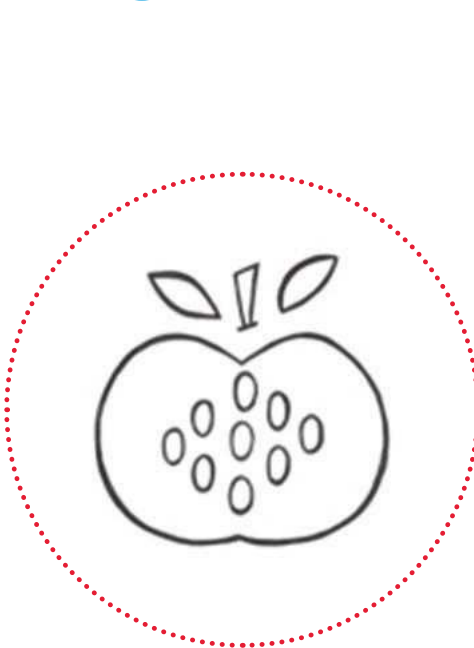
So... how do you get your hands on our wonderful April images?

- Go to the Craft Stamper website: www.craftstamper.com
- Click the tab labelled 'Features', then click the subheading 'colouring'
- Choose the 'April Digital Download' article, click on it...

Follow the instructions on screen!

You can also:

- Go to the Craft Stamper blog: www.craftstamper.blogspot.com
- You will see a tab under the banner, labelled 'Digital Images'
- Open the tab, and all four images will appear on the page. Simply right click each image to save it to your computer.



Next...

- Open the image in whatever graphics programme you prefer, it could be Word, Photoshop, Paint, Illustrator, Publisher etc
- Manipulate the image if you wish, making it smaller, larger or flipping it
- Save the manipulated image, then print it off
- Colour and use on your art projects!

We really hope you enjoy your digital images!



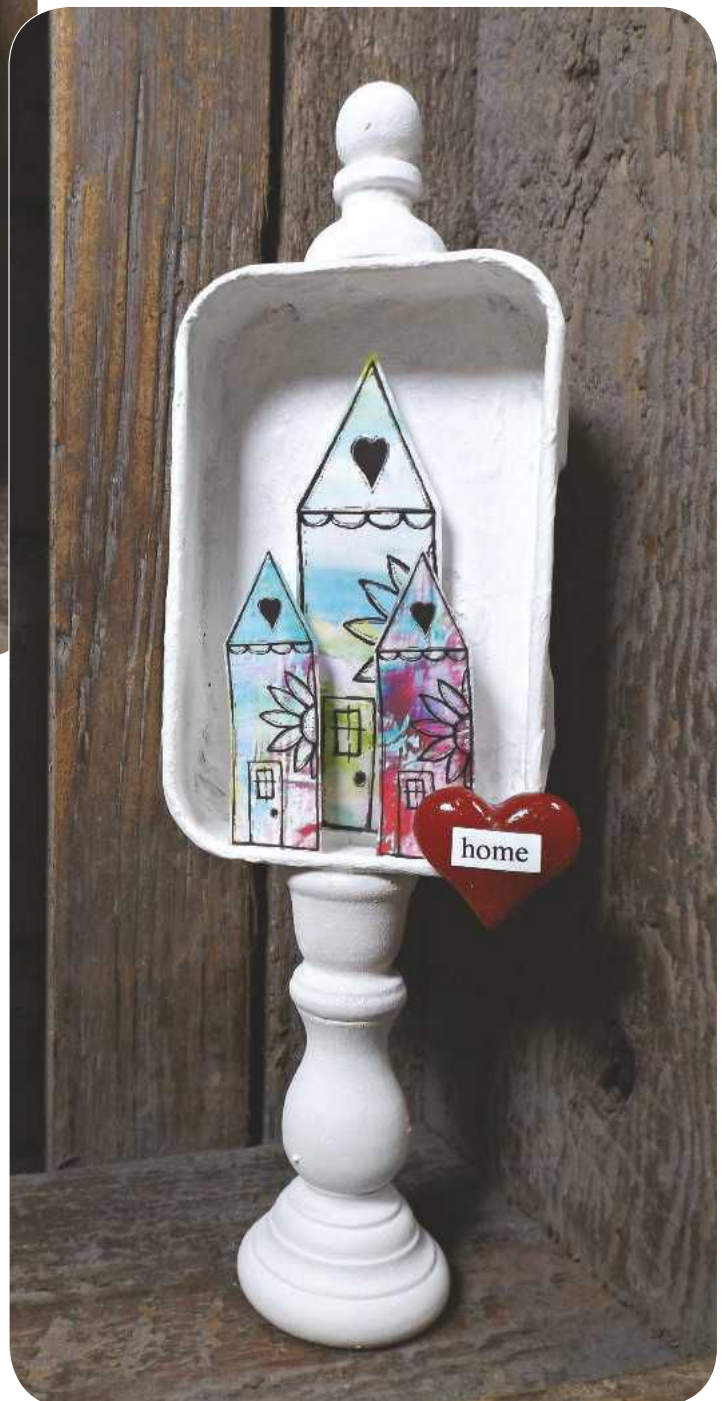
◀ Magical Path By Trish Latimer

I measured the height of the wooden panel I wanted to use as a base for this project, then resized the digital image so it would sit perfectly on top. Once printed off, I covered the printout with a couple of layers of clear gesso before colouring. I then added some extra black lines and white doodles to the house before gluing it to my painty background on the panel. As a final touch, I added an extra layer to the flower detail on the house. It's easily done, just print off another copy of the image and colour!

▶ Home Is Where the Heart Is Assemblage By Trish Latimer

When I create a painty background that I like, I always scan it and save the image. That way, I'll always have bespoke background papers ready to print off when I need them! This is especially useful when using digital images, as I can print them off directly over the top of the background, and then just cut out and use!

Here, I painted an Altoid tin white, and added a small candlestick at the bottom, and an old chess piece to the top as decoration. The houses were glued in position, then I added a red UTEE heart as a final touch.





“This digital apple stamp has a clean design. It asks for clean and simple cards, which is just what I like to make! I created two 15 x 15 cm (6" x 6") cards in my favourite colour combination. While making cards I often wait to add text until I know which occasion I will use the cards for.”



▲ Alphabet Mix By Anneke De Clerck

I'm always trying to use up things from my stash while making cards. The blue background on this card was made with scraps of old alphabet stickers in the most ugly colours. I glued the stickers down randomly on a square panel. To hide the awful colours I applied two coats of gesso and a coat of light blue paint on top. To highlight the texture, I dry brushed the background with white paint. I just love how this has turned out!

The white background was cut out of a white and cream coloured gelli plate print. I printed the apple image on cardstock and coloured the print with paint. After cutting out the different elements I glued them in place on the alphabet background. I finished the card off with a row of tiny buttons and some washi tape.





**DESIGNER
TIP...**

To tear a circle out of tissue paper, lay down a piece of tissue paper on your worktable and put a circle die on top. Hold the die in place firmly with one hand. Carefully tear the tissue paper off along the outer edge of the die with your other hand.

▲ **Circles**

By Anneke De Clerck

On this card I played with circles. I applied white and light blue paint on the background using a plastic card and made scratches into the wet paint with a pencil. To create the light blue circles I sponged paint through the Dina Wakley Media Bullseye stencil.

I printed the apple image at a reduced size on cardstock and coloured the print with red, pink and blue paint and cut out the different elements. I then glued the apple on a die cut circle and added a tissue paper circle underneath. I finished the card off with washi tape, cord and felt ornaments.



Creativation 2017

The annual Association For Creative Industries (AFCI, formerly known as CHA) trade show took place this year for the first time in Phoenix, Arizona. All of the major retailers in the craft industry were there, showcasing all their brand new releases! Craft Stamper designer Jenny Marples was lucky enough to attend, and she is sharing some fabulous behind the scenes pictures with us today...

The seemingly diminutive entrance belied the fact that inside vast halls held booths containing many globally known creative companies and designers, all sharing their latest product innovations for 2017 with thousands of eager onlookers.



Visitors to the show were greeted by an area known as the Town Square. This photo was taken at the end of the day when the crowds had dissipated; during the show it was packed with a throng of attendees and entertainers, including a jazz band and mime artists. There were also regular prize draws held here which added to the noise and excitement.

Eileen Hull, a designer with Sizzix, hauled her beloved trailer, 'Scotty' over 2500 miles across the US to attend the show. Eileen's amazing Design Team had created lots of projects with the new die designs for everyone to see and a dedicated make and take area to the side hosted a packed schedule of classes.

I was lucky enough to be invited to demonstrate for Eileen Hull at one of the craft stations within the huge Sizzix booth. It was incredibly exciting to share one of my favourite design ideas with people from across the globe and time seemed to whizz by so fast! There were also opportunities to 'walk the floor' and see the other designers in action, meeting up with many of those famous names we see regularly on social media.





“Talk about mirror magic – when I first tried this spray out I couldn’t quite believe my eyes. Combined with the lovely, thick acrylic, it’s a match made in heaven.”





THAT'S CRAFTY!

Meet the Retailer, That's Crafty

That's Crafty are a family run bricks and mortar craft shop based in Romford, Essex.

They also run an online website, selling a massive range of all the crafty stash you could ever need!

That's Crafty also have their own range of amazing surfaces, stencils and stamps.

Explore their products online:
www.thatscrafty.co.uk

Mirror Magic

Use the new acrylic shapes by That's Crafty! to craft stunning mirrored designs! By Helen Chilton

I've gone all That's Crafty! this month! As well as using some of their new stamps, I'm going to showcase some of their newest acrylic surfaces, the Splat Upright and the Rectangle Wall Hanging. If you haven't tried working on this acrylic before then you should have a go. You can draw on it, emboss it, stamp it, stencil it and paint it, all the while creating extra layers both front and back.

The Upright slots into its own stand which provides an easy way to display it and the acrylic rectangles come with the holes already made. That's Crafty! has cleverly designed it so that the holes in each rectangle match up vertically for ease of hanging.

I'm also using a very exciting new product from Pentart available from That's Crafty!, the Mirror Mist for plastic. You simply spray it onto one side of the plastic (in this case the acrylic surfaces), fan it dry and then flip it over to reveal a mirrored surface. You can then paint, stamp, stencil or whatever you fancy over the top.

I was so fascinated by this that I had to have a bit of an experiment and look at different ways of applying the mist and decorating the mirrored surface.

DESIGNER TIP...

You must seal the mirror spray on the back of the acrylic with the recommended varnish as the surface is delicate and prone to scratching.



Materials

Stamps Helen used...

- That's Crafty!: Motivational Words Set 2; The Serenity Collection Treena

Other materials...

- That's Crafty! Surfaces: Acrylic Upright Splat; Acrylic Rectangle Wall Hanging
- That's Crafty! Dinky stencils: Flight of Butterflies TC027; Floral Background TC067; Enchanted TC062
- That's Crafty! Word Series Stencil: Create
- StazOn ink pad: Jet Black
- Pentart Mirror Mist for plastic
- Pentart Varnish Mist
- Pentart Iron Paste
- Pentart Mineral Powder: Quartz Fine
- PaperArtsy Fresco Acrylic paints: Blue Oyster; Bora Bora; China; Caribbean Sea; Limelight

Go Shopping!

All products used here are available from That's Crafty!, www.thatscrafty.co.uk, 01708 344146

Step-by-step... **Shabby Chic Mirror Splat**



1 Remove backing paper from both sides of the Splat and spray the Mirror Mist on the back. Start in centre with full coverage then spray more lightly for speckled effect at edges.

2 Take spray tube out and flick to get blobs around edges. Scratch the centre lightly with sandpaper.

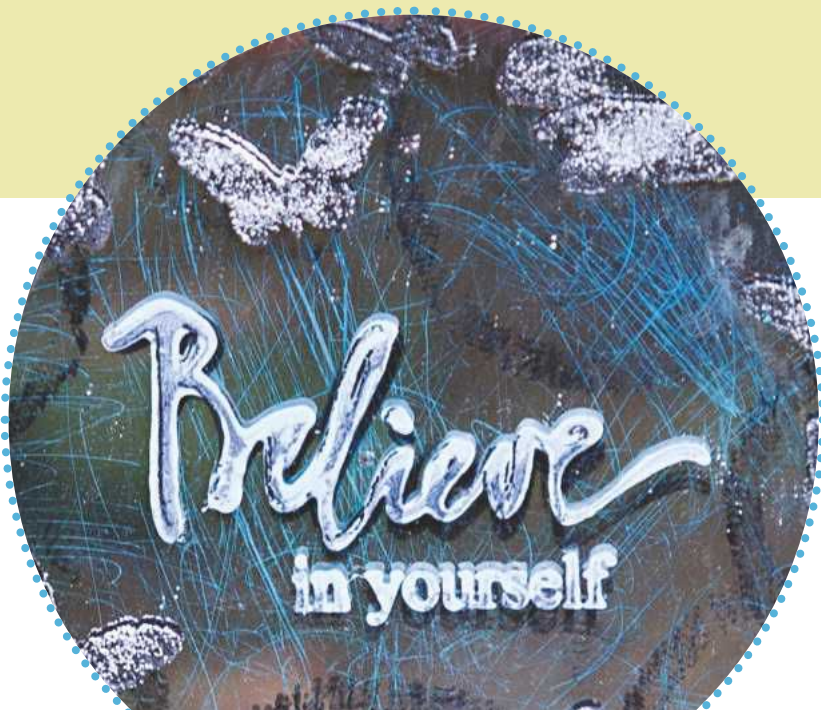
3 Stamp the tiny leaves from Treena stamp set around the edges on the back. Spray with the varnish.

4 Paint tiny leaves with Limelight, then, when dry, flip over and stamp and paint leaves on the front edges.

5 Stencil butterflies with Iron Paste and sprinkle with the Quartz Mineral Powder while wet.

6 Paint the back of the mirror in a mixture of the blues and greens. This will show through on the front.

To finish the project: Stamp the text in the middle in black and then overstamp in Blue Oyster paint. Decorate the stand using the same techniques as for main mirror.



TIME SAVING IDEA...

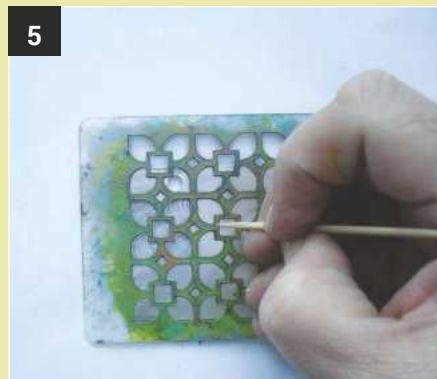
Very important: Remember to remove the backing plastic from both sides of the acrylic otherwise your artwork will be wasted.



Further Ideas



Step-by-step... Rectangle Wall Hanging



1 Place stencil face down on largest rectangle, tape and spray with Mirror Mist. Remember you're working on the back so text needs to be in reverse.

2 Scratch around edges of letters when dry with a cocktail stick to define text and create a grungy effect.

3 Splatter some Mirror Mist as before and also dab with a sponge. Add stamping and paint as before.

4 Spray Mirror Mist onto kitchen towel and dab onto back of medium rectangle to create mottled effect. Stamp text as before. Edge back with green paint.

5 Spray back of smallest rectangle with Mirror Mist and dry. Repeat. Place stencil over top and scratch out pattern with bamboo skewer.

6 Vary how you etch into the stencil. When finished it will look like this. Varnish and then paint over back in blues and green.

To finish the project: Hang the pieces together with ribbon or chain.



WHY NOT TRY?

Have a look at the huge variety of acrylic products available at That's Crafty! All these can be 'mirrorised'.



Inspirational People

We highlight some of the amazing people working in arts and crafts who are trying to make a real difference in this crazy world! Meet the amazing Amy Jakob.



To raise money for mental health charity, Mind, Amy holds local 'Crafternoons', afternoons filled with fun and crafting. Amy worked as a full time teacher for three years, but when she began to experience painful episodes of depression and anxiety she decided to stop teaching. Amy now works on a self-employed basis where she uses her teaching skills for three days a week to tutor children who have been 'kicked out of the system'. Amy started this in September and has been concentrating on her craft business for the rest of the week.



Amy Jakob, Mind Fundraiser



"It took a while to get used to not having such a busy life but it meant I could relax and spend time doing things I enjoyed. I started making bits and bobs for other people and then I decided to use this skill to raise money for something I wanted to advocate.

When I opened up my shop it was mainly because I wanted to talk about mental health in a positive way. Often when you hear about mental health it is all doom and gloom but I want to promote that if people are open about their mental health it can open up other opportunities."

Crafternoon is a way of helping other people be crafty and raise awareness of mental health, and to also help Mind support the one in four with mental health problems. Free Crafternoon fundraising packs, full of tips and ideas, are available at www.mind.org.uk/crafternoon



"My depression started when I went to university – I did a year abroad in Paris, which sounds amazing and it was, however it was very isolated. It is not actually a social experience – it was very lonely and even when I came home, and was now surrounded by my friends and family all speaking my first language I still felt alone and isolated."



Amy opened up her own Etsy shop, (www.etsy.com/uk/people/amyalicedonoghue) and started a blog, called Hope the Black Dog, (www.hopetheblackdog.com) that documents her crafty life and the difficulties of dealing with mental health issues on a daily basis.

She also began hosting Crafternoon's in her local area to bring her friends and family together, raise awareness of mental health issues and give all involved a taste of therapeutic crafting.

"The idea of a Crafternoon sounded really fun – something I enjoyed doing and Mind had provided me with so much helpful information – when I was looking at leaving teaching I used Mind's online legal advice a lot to help me feel confident to leave the security of teaching."



Do YOU know an inspirational person in the craft world?
Let us know! Email editor.cs@mytimemedia.com

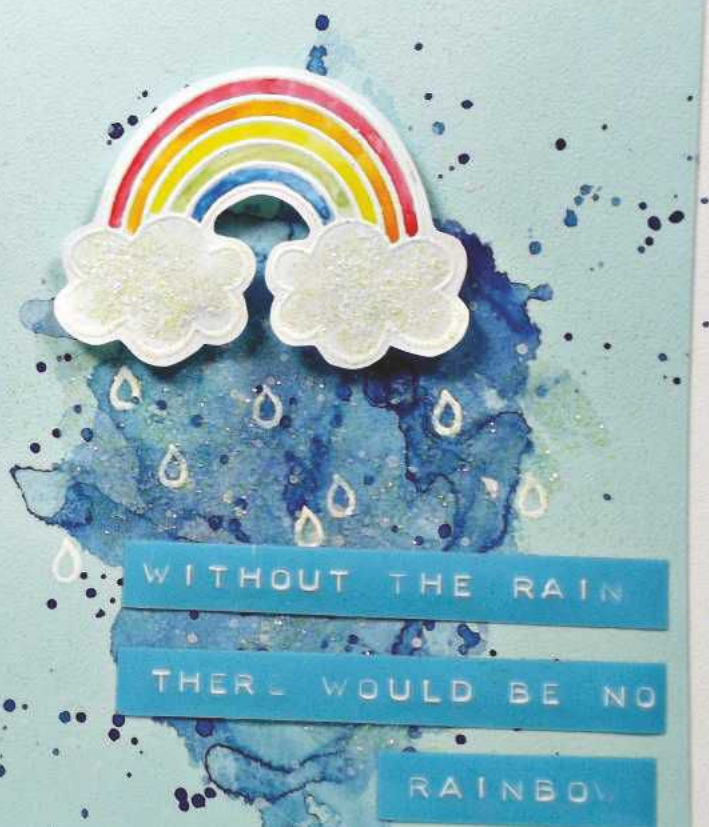
Ready, Set, Stamp!

The themes and colours for this month's gallery were:

April Showers



Watercolours, splashing, dripping, splattering.
Shimmery pools, reflections.



◀ Without the Rain...

By Riikka Kovasin

April showers bring May flowers but they also bring rainbows! Like the saying in the card goes – there can't be rainbows without some rain. The theme and the words 'shimmery pools' made me think of sun reflecting on the surface of a pool, so I created a card with a pool of shimmer and a rainbow which is causing it!

First I stamped the raindrops with embossing ink on my cardstock and embossed them with white powder. On top, I added different shades of blue with watercolours. Next I stamped the rainbow onto a piece of white cardstock and embossed with white powder as well. The rainbow was coloured with watercolours and then mounted onto my card with Foam Dots.

For the finishing touches I added Soft Gel on top of the pool of colour and the clouds and sprinkled some glitter on top. Lastly, I made the sentiment using a Dymo Junior label maker and a turquoise tape.

Materials

STAMPS: Avery Elle – Be a Unicorn.
INKS: WOW! Embossing Powders – Embossing Ink.

OTHER: Elizabeth Craft Designs Soft Finish Cardstock – White; Soft Sky; WOW! Embossing Powders – Bright White; Prima Marketing Watercolour paints – Tropicals; Basics; Prima Marketing – Soft Gloss Gel; Prima Marketing – Ebony and Ivory Glitter Set; Dymo Junior.

April Showers

This month's gallery was inspired by our theme of April Showers, celebrating the beauty of water!

▶ Blue Melody By Bożena Bodynek

Here I have made a simple project with an effective, splashy watercolour background using various stamps and only a few embellishments. I love making quick and intuitive projects like this.

I have layered different elements of watercolour backgrounds together to achieve an interesting, splattered effect. To achieve these effective watercolour backgrounds I use watercolours on cellophane or spare stamp packaging. First, I apply the colours to the cellophane with a brush and spritz with water. Next, I push the cellophane around on the surface of the card to create different shapes and effects. A step-by-step tutorial can be found on my blog. To finish my design, I added stamping and some embellishments such as glitter, flowers, sequins and crystals.

Materials

STAMPS: Vintage Imagine; Prima Finnabair – Don't Forget to Fly; Taylored Expressions – Grid Paper. INKS: Memento – Tuxedo Black. OTHER: Wild Orchid Crafts – Paper flowers; watercolour paints; glitter; decorative papers; canvas.

Reader
Submission



Reader
Submission



◀ April Shower By Marian Zimmerman

First I stamped the girl on a piece of white card, then I masked her. The masks for the circles were made using punches, and were coloured in with Memento and Distress Ink. I stamped the raindrops whilst the masks were still in place.

After removing the masks I stamped the raindrops all over the card and sponged the card with blue Distress Ink, and a little bit of black on the edges. The girl was then coloured in with Distress Inks and a waterbrush and the umbrella was coloured using markers. The text was printed from the computer and glued to pieces of card. To finish, I added some white dots and accents with the Sharpie pen and adhered to a matching card.

Materials

STAMPS: Viva Las VegasStamps – Girl with Umbrella; Crealies – Raindrops. INKS: Memento – Summer Sky; Teal Seal; VersaFine – Black; Distress – Evergreen Bough; Festive Berries; Spun Sugar; Tumbled Glass. OTHER: Twinmarkers – Canaria Yellow/ Indian Blue; Sharpie pen – White.

Reader
Submission



Breathe

By Marion Wybranietz

First, I stamped the fish image and masked it. After applying Distress Inks in different shades of blue and green, I added yet more stamping, including bubbles, grass, the sentiment and cross stitch for texture. It's a simple but effective card design that focuses on the main stamp image and sentiment.

Materials

STAMPS: Viva Las Vegastamps – Steampunk Fish; Tuft of Grass; Cross Stitch; Cherry Pie Art Stamps – Decorative Correspondence; Stampin' Up – Labeler Alphabet. INKS: Ranger – Distress; Archival.

It's All About Love

By Scrapper Myra

The theme for this gallery was so inspirational and the colour palette is simple and beautifully tonal. I thought of cool rain, colour dripping and clean look projects. I decided to make a card about 'fresh love', using this great image of the couple with the umbrella under the rain.

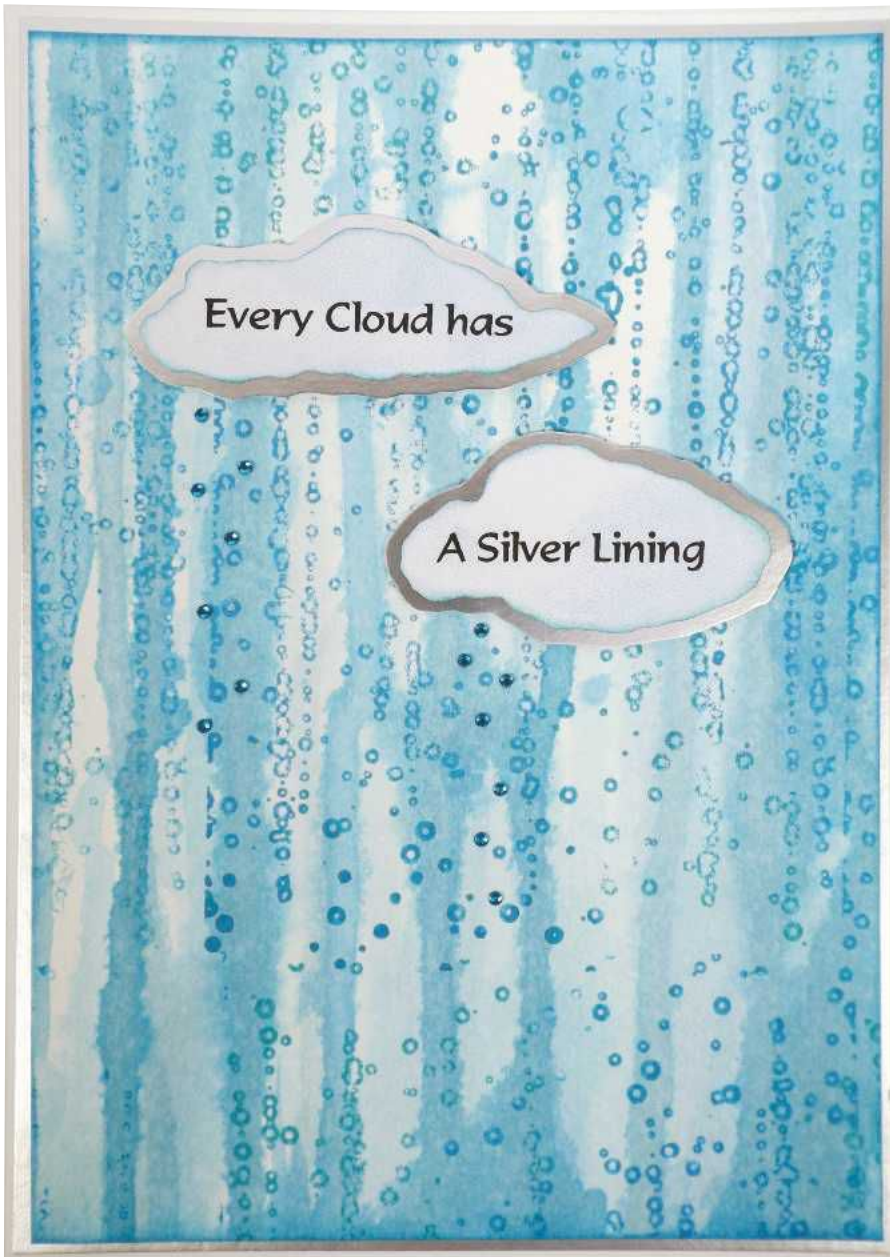
Firstly, I stamped the image on white cardstock and coloured with Gelatos for a subtle look, in order to keep as closest as possible to the colour combination provided for the theme. Then, I used sprays to literally drip the colours as rain. Once dry, I stamped the sentiment on the base card and placed the image on top. I finished with tiny sequins to provide movement and dimension to the coloured rain.

Materials

STAMPS: Unity Stamp Co. – Magic of Beginnings; It's All About Love. INKS: Memento – Tuxedo Black; Ranger – Cobalt; Prima Color Bloom Spray Mist – Deep Teal; Soft Teal; Cobalt. OTHER: Faber Castell Gelatos – Metallic Blueberry; Melon; Chocolate; Peach; Butterscotch; tacky glue; sequins; white cardstock.



Reader
Submission



◀ Every Cloud By Sue Wherry

Use watered down Distress Inks and a paint brush to dribble paint down some watercolour paper. When dry, use a mixture of the inks to stamp the raindrops over the dribbles. Edge with ink. Layer this onto silver card and adhere to a card blank.

Either print a computer generated sentiment or handwrite a greeting onto white card. Cut a cloud shape around words and edge with ink. Stick onto silver card and cut around clouds leaving a border of silver. Use foam tape to stick each cloud onto the background as shown. Finish with a sprinkle of blue stones under each cloud.

Materials

STAMPS: IndigoBlu – Rain Droplets.
INKS: Distress – Peacock Feathers; Tumbled Glass; Salty Ocean; Mermaid Lagoon. OTHER: White card blank; thin white card; silver card; watercolour paper; blue stones.

* Call for Designers

Would you like to see your work in print on these pages? We have always featured a few reader creations here, but we'd like to extend that and offer more space to see what amazing things you create, now really is the time to get ready, get set and stamp!

Find out more about how to enter by visiting the Craft Stamper blog at www.craftstamper.blogspot.co.uk



3D Challenge



Brave Heart Egg

By Cat Kerr

I adhered the crocheted fabric to the egg using Decou-Page and let it dry. I then covered it in gesso and painted it and the top of the egg with the Multi Surface paint. When dry, I added Gold Metallic Lustre to both. Next I used a Sharpie and added white dots to the egg.

I added a piece of Apoxie Sculpt to connect the egg and the top piece and then applied rhinestone stickers to the Apoxie. I stamped the image onto white card stock with watermark ink and heat embossed it twice. I cut the whole image out and just the heart from the second image. I glued the stamped band onto the egg and added Foam Dots to the second heart and placed it over the first stamped heart. Lastly, I glued on more rhinestones above and below the stamped band.

Materials

STAMPS: Cat Kerr – Brave Heart. INKS: Watermark ink pad. OTHER: Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts – Imperial Egg Relic; crocheted fabric scrap; DecoArt – Decou- Page; gesso – white; DecoArt Americana Multi Surface Paint – Coastal Waters; DecoArt Metallic Lustre – Gold; embossing powder – gold; Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts – Apoxie Sculpt; rhinestone stickers; Foam Dots; Sharpie pen – White.

giveaway!



Regular: 3D Challenge

For this issue's challenge, the designers worked with the stunning Imperial Egg cast resin piece by Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts.



The Relics and Artifacts range, created by Sandra Evertson, is an amazing eclectic range of craft blanks, all inspired by the curios and antiques owned by Sandra herself. Handcrafted molds are taken directly from the original pieces, castings are created and refined into timeless curated arrangements ready to be reimagined in any number of unique and beautiful ways.

The Relics and Artifacts brand ambassadors have created some truly amazing art to share, all with the same starting point, the Imperial Egg.

We have a Relics and Artifacts Imperial Egg to give away to one lucky reader! To enter, simply visit www.craftstamper.com, and click on the Win! tab.

► The Guardians By Christina Colón

I love creating shrines and shadow boxes and I have had this one for quite some time, waiting to be transformed. When looking at Cat Kerr's stamps, inspiration struck. I have always loved forest-inspired, earthy themed projects and the magic they always seem to convey. Couple that love of magic with my other love for totems and you have 'The Guardians'. The strong buck represents strength and wisdom while the playful fairy embodies all that is youthful, playful, and innocent. The nested egg symbolises the constant rebirth of the spirit. Together, these two guardians protect and nourish the heart of the forest.

Materials

STAMPS: Cat Kerr – She Flies with Her Own Wings; Strength. INKS: StazOn – Jet Black; Timber. OTHER: Retro Café Art – Victorian Door Shrine Kit; Fairy Maps ATC Collage Sheet; Wild Flower Background Collage Sheet; Daiso – Hour Glass Stand; Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts – Milagros; Imperial Egg; Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts Dresden Trim Wrought Iron – Gold; Daisy Chain – Small Gold; Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts Bohemian Jewels – Turquoise; Apoxie Sculpt; Liquitex acrylic paint; Ranger Ice Enamels – Turquoise; Ranger Ice Resin; ColorBox; Ranger Ice Resin – Mold Putty; dark brown ink pad; Daiso – Jute.





► Dreams of Courage By Debby Anderson

I like to use blank vintage paper to stamp on as it gives an 'old world' and timeworn look and feel to my pieces. If I don't have any vintage paper, I create my own by coffee staining copy paper and leaving to dry in the sun. I also prefer to stamp in brown StazOn ink instead of black. I was inspired to use Cat Kerr's 'I Believe' stamp while designing 'Dreams of Courage'. The past year was a challenging one for myself and my family... we needed courage, strength and to believe that the future would get better. Like Joan of Arc we wore our armour to get through the tough times.

Materials

STAMPS: Cat Kerr – I Believe. INKS: StazOn – Timber Brown; Walnut. OTHER: Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts – Imperial Egg; Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts Bohemian Jewels – Ruby; Aquamarine; Fleur de Lis Paper, vintage book; vintage seam binding; vintage beaded sari silk trims; velvet trim; brass embossed stampings; vintage rhinestone embellishments; Beacon – Fabri-tac, Golden – Matte Medium; Joan of Arc medal.



◀ Nature Girl By Lynne Moncrieff

Inspired by the Imperial Egg and Cat Kerr's stamp, my vision was of an ornament, depicting a 'Nature Girl'. The sentiment encouraged me to add wings to the egg. Using Tuxedo Black ink with the wing designs, I stamped onto paperclay to craft my wings. A wooden back is provided with the egg, allowing me, with Gel Medium, to sandwich the wings between the back of the egg and the wooden backing. The face and sentiment were stamped onto tissue paper before being adhered to the egg with PaperArtsy Crackle Glaze. To complete the piece, I added a collection of some of the items she might have gathered on her nature walk – a twig, flower and fragments carried on the wind.

Materials

STAMPS: Cat Kerr – She Flies with Her Own Wings. INKS: Ranger Archival ink pad – Potting Soil; Memento ink pad – Tuxedo Black. OTHER: Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts Archival Cast Resin – Imperial Egg; Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts – Velvetten Flowers; Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts Dresden Trim Wrought Iron – Silver; paperclay; PaperArtsy Fresco Finish Chalk Acrylic paint – Antarctic; Chalk; Caramel; Lake Wanaka; Toffee; PaperArtsy – Crackle Glaze; Golden – Gesso; Regular Matte Gel Medium; YarnYarn – Sari ribbon.

► The Power of Me

By Milagros Rivera

I wanted to create a talisman pendant to empower myself in days when I need a boost. Cat Kerr's stamps are so inspirational that at least one of them is bound to give you wings! I've also stamped the quote on the back to have it near my heart, it's the reason it became a jewellery piece!

Use the Apoxie Sculpt medium to connect the two pieces of your Imperial Egg. I like to stamp on tissue and apply with gel medium, as it allows me to add stamping to three dimensional objects. This means any object can become 'stampable'! It's then easy to colour your images with watercolours after.

Materials

STAMPS: Cat Kerr – I Believe in the Power of Me. INKS: Ranger Archival – Jet Black. OTHER: Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts – Imperial Egg; Bohemian Jewels; Ken Oliver Color Burst watercolour paint – Turquoise; Fuchsia; Chartreuse; Gamboge; Apoxie Sculpt; Ranger embossing powder – Princess Gold; Ice Resin; bronze chain; gel medium.



◀ Moving Day

By Monica Downing

This mamma bird, with her long eyelashes, and beautiful tiara, is watching over the dream fairy as she so carefully moves her egg to the fairy forest to hatch.

The Ice Resin Iced Enamels work fantastically well on the Relics and Artifacts craft blanks, as well as the archival tray and wooden flourishes. They add both colour and dimension. The stamped image has also been coloured using the Ice Resin Iced Enamels. To finish, fussy cut flowers from scrapbook paper add colour and dimension to the background and add to the magical feel of this piece.

Materials

STAMPS: Cat Kerr – Dreamer. INK: StazOn – Black. OTHER: Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts – Imperial Egg; Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts Archival Wooden Tray II – Large; Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts – Bohemian Jewels; Ice Resin Iced Enamels – Turquoise; Raspberry; Chartreuse; Ten Seconds Studio Verday paint – Rust; wood flourish; acrylic paint – lime green; vintage tart tin; vintage bobbins; glass drawer pulls; scrapbooking paper; bird.



► Find Your Tribe By Sherry Matthews

'Find Your Tribe' was made in honour of the artistic journey. Most creative people travel through different mediums and styles, picking up artsy friends along the way... friends who encourage and inspire you. That's your tribe.

The Imperial Egg was wrapped in a layer of Apoxie Sculpt and designed to resemble a compass, using brown paint, Inka Gold and a game spinner. The 'compass' was placed in an archival case lined with map paper, stained with watered down brown acrylic paint and trimmed with punched ledger paper and Dresden trim. ICE Resin, tinted Hacienda blue, was used on the Imperial Egg topper. A banner was created by stamping 'FIND YOUR TRIBE' into Apoxie Sculpt, which was then painted brown and highlighted with Inka Gold.

Materials

STAMPS: Cat Kerr – Find Your Tribe. OTHER: Sandra Evertson Relics and Artifacts – Imperial Eggs; Archival Case wooden tray I; Tim Holtz – Game Spinner; Apoxie Sculpt; Dresden Trim – gold medallions; ICE Resin; ICE Resin tints – Hacienda; Inka Gold; DecoArt – One Step Crackle; gel medium; map paper; ledger paper; small watch gear; Martha Stewart – paper punch.



◀ Faberge Inspired Egg By Heather Thompson

I wanted my egg to resemble the elegance and beauty of a Faberge egg. I wanted to create an intricate weave of crystals and silver and to make a piece of art that is wearable and gorgeous. I chose the Poppy Jasper to incorporate tones of silver, grey and black, and to pull the reds out from the focal heart. To complete the feature heart, I used Cat Kerr's Brave Heart stamp.

Materials

STAMPS: Cat Kerr – Brave Heart; Stampin' Up – Timeless Textures. INKS: DecoArt Media – Carbon Black; Transparent Red Iron Oxide; Paynes Grey; Metallic Silver; Quinacridone Gold; Matte Medium; Tinting Base; Gesso – White. OTHER: Relics and Artifacts – Imperial Egg; Relics and Artifacts Dresden Trim – Silver Tiny Triangles; Apoxie Sculpt; Swarovski Crystals – Indian Red; Jet Black; Black Diamond; Sterling Silver beads and findings; Poppy Jasper stones.

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www.createitevents.com



Craft Box Creations!

A collection of talented Craft Box designers showcase their wonderful skills and styles!



Evermore Layout

By Craft Box Designer, Anna Hersom

This piece took a little while to compose as I wanted to make sure that all layers worked with each other. I started by spraying the 8" x 8" page with homemade shimmer spray and then added some muslin cloth and art stones by Prima. This created my first layer. From there, I added the frame, applique and die cuts. Finally, the offset picture was placed on top.

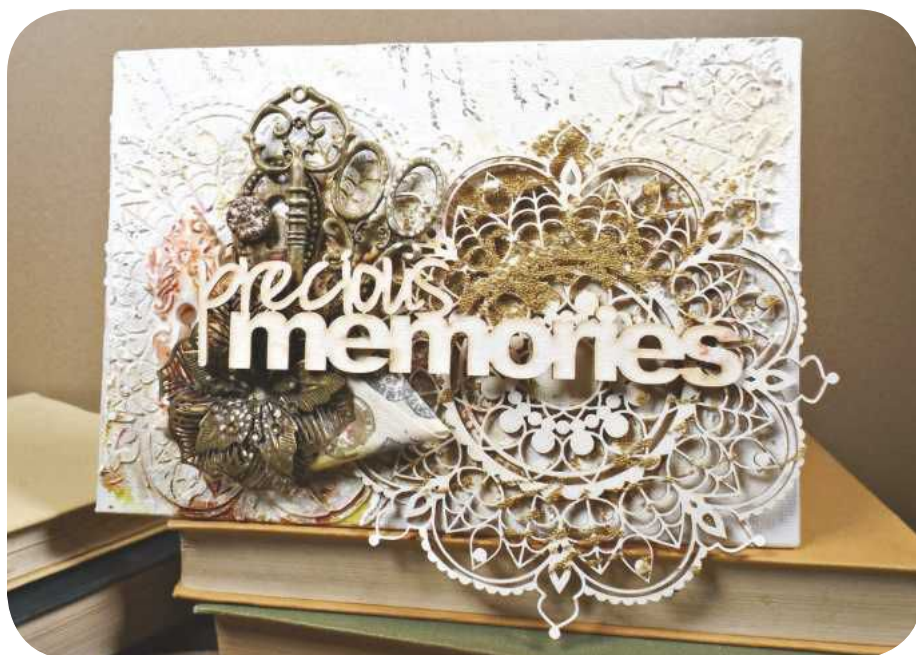
Materials

Stamps Anna used...

- Hero Art: Script

Other materials...

- January 2016 Craft Box: Blue acrylic spray
- SnipArt: Medium oval frame; Together Love Forever chipboard; Mandala chipboard; large sentiment set; Mandala stencil
- Prima: Art Stones
- ColourArte Pigments
- May 2016 Craft Box: Lace applique
- January 2017 Craft Box: Linen ribbon; brass embellishments; gold plated micro-beads
- June 2016 Craft Box: Travel ephemera
- Anna Marie Designs paper
- Tim Holtz Sizzix Thinlits
- Prima IOD Keyhole mould



▲ Precious Memories By Craft Box Designer, Anna Hersom

This piece has been created using a number of Craft Box pieces from the January 2017 Craft Box. The box itself was themed 'Long Lost Memories' and represented the need for preserving memories as they are all precious. I've used texture paste and a stencil matching my chosen chipboard to give the piece a uniform and finished look.



◀ Love Forever By Craft Box Designer, Anna Hersom

This is a really simple piece that would make a great card topper. It took only a few minutes to create, with the background created on white cardstock using a stamp and pieces of ephemera placed in different areas of the tag. The composition was then tied together by a linen ribbon and a few mulberry flowers.



Meet the Retailer, Craft Box

Craft Box is a monthly box full of scrapbooking, card making and mixed media supplies. Every box contains 15 unique, individually packaged products. Craft Box was created by a crafter to provide other crafters with a beautiful monthly box they deserve. Products include mulberry flowers, charms, resin pieces, embellishments, papers, canvases and more. Whether you are looking for a scrapbooking kit, card making kit or mixed media art set you will find it all in Craft Box!

Explore their products online:
www.craftbox.co.uk



Materials

Stamps Claire used...

- Polkadoodles: Magic Garden; Little Kingdom

Other materials...

- Craft Box items: papers; mini bottle; cabochons; flowers; leaves; SnipArt; cheesecloth; ribbon; resin roses; small inset gems; stick pin; beads
- 8x8 Canvas
- Distress Ink: Tumbled Glass; Broken China; Shabby Shutters; Peeled Paint; Tea Dye; Vintage Photo
- Distress Reinker: Mustard Seed
- Indigo Blu stencil: Starburst
- Ultra Thick Slap It On
- Texture paste
- Dutch Doobadoo stencil: Brick
- Moss
- VersaFine ink pad: Black

Home Sweet Home

By Craft Box Designer, Claire Chapman

Use the brick stencil and texture paste to create a brick effect around the frame on the back of the canvas. When dry, colour the brick pattern with Distress Inks.

Cut white stamping card to fit aperture and create the background loosely using Distress Inks. Stencil the sunburst with Ultra Thick Slap It On mixed with yellow reinker and add a swirl in the middle for the sun. Bottle some sunshine using a little of the coloured Slap It on and a spritz of water. I made a tiny funnel from acetate to make filling the bottle easier. Lay the bottle on its side to dry. Stamp the house and garden elements onto patterned paper using black ink, cut out and paper piece the scene onto the background.

Last but not least, take lots of pretty embellishments and glue them into place with a hot glue gun.

Life's an Adventure

By Craft Box Designer, Tracy Hill

Lots of layers were used to create this detailed, travel themed card. Holiday snaps and an Airmail envelope were tucked into the wonderfully evocative piece, along with lace for added texture, and a whimsical wooden bicycle. Distressed edges, twine and that dash of glitter all add to the charm!

Materials

Stamps Tracy used...

- Hampton Art: Fly Away

Other materials...

- January 2016 Craft Box: Light bulb charms
- Craft Box: Flowers
- December 2016 Craft Box: Epoxy cabochon
- September 2016 Craft Box: Jazz wood embellishment
- June 2016 Craft Box: Travel ephemera
- October Craft Box: Black lace





◀ Key to My Heart

*By Craft Box Designer,
Linda Grover*

I wanted to produce a project that said "I love you Mum" using products from Craft Box for inspiration. I went with a fresh pastel theme that would hopefully appeal to mums of all ages. The colours in the papers gave me my colour scheme.

I painted the book box with the chalk paint then added previously coloured texture paste through a Craft Box stencil and left to dry. I then stamped randomly all over the front using the papers, SnipArt and resin frame. I then embellished with flowers, beads etc from the Craft Box. For the inside cover I used watercolour over the Prima Paintable Rose and layered with other Prima paper. The Paintables are excellent if you have trouble colouring in and shading. I sprayed the heart in Salt Water Taffy and fixed the key charm and heart to a ribbon hung inside the box.

Materials

Stamps Linda used...

- Woodware: Love Collage
- BoBunny: It is Written

Other materials...

- Graphic 45: Book Box
- PaperArtsy Fresco Finish Chalk paint: Cheesecake
- VersaFine ink pad: Vintage Sepia
- Hobbycraft: Heart
- Lindy's Stamp Gang spray: Salt Water Taffy
- Craft Box: Flowers; embellishments; SnipArt; Prima papers



▶ The Perfect Moment

By Craft Box Designer, Theo Gibson

The canvas was first covered in gesso and then covered in tissue paper from the November Craft Box. Two side panels were added using black lace and scalloped panels were cut from beige lace. I have also added a sentiment cabochon from Craft Box.

The frame and wooden words are from SnipArt. The fabric picture was a gift from a friend. To finish this piece, I added some Prima flowers and little gems from the August Craft Box.

Materials

Other materials...

- November 2016 Craft Box: Tissue paper
- November 2016 Craft Box: Tissue paper
- SnipArt: Moments chipboard; frame
- Craft Box glass cabochons: Inspirational Words
- Prima flowers: Belle Artes Butterfly

Go Shopping!

All Craft Box products are available to buy from Craft Box! Visit www.craftbox.co.uk to find out more!

Stamping Contrasts

giveaway!



This issue, three talented designers have used the Family Values stamp sheet by The Artistic Stamper.

This wonderful A5 stamp sheet by The Artistic Stamper, Family Values, is simply perfect for all your vintage makes! The main stamp image is a nostalgic family scene, and also included are two very useful background stamps. The Alphabet and Numerical designs will soon become 'go to' stamps when creating all kinds of mixed media art work.

What would you create with yours? We have the Family Values A5 stamp set to give away to one lucky reader! To enter, simply log on to www.craftstamper.com, and click the Win! tab. All our giveaways can be found there!

The Family Values rubber stamp set (and lots more besides!) is available to buy from: www.theartisticstamper.com



◀ Vintage Journal

By Tracy Easson

Imagine my glee on opening the stamps; my imagination went into overdrive! I ran around grabbing scraps of fabric, lace, metal embellishments, an old book and some coffee. The stamps spoke to me and told me they wanted to be made into a lovely old vintage art journal, so I couldn't resist! What better way to create a lovely aged look than by using a coffee mix to dip the scraps of fabric in. I hope you have as much fun as I did playing around with all your scraps to create beautiful layers before focusing on a part of the stamp and making it pop. Now to fill it with art, photographs and memories!

Materials

STAMPS: The Artistic Stamper – Family Values A5. INKS: Ranger Archival – Jet Black OTHER: Second hand book; muslin; scraps of fabric; lace trim; coffee; Finnabair – Metal Grunge Butterflies; Mini Stars; Tim Holtz Idea-Ology – Mini Pocket Watch; DecoArt Media – Liquid Glass; thread; pins.

“All for the love
of old books and
scraps of fabric!”

▶ Upcycled Fabric Ribbon

By Tracy Easson

Creating your own fabric ribbon from scraps couldn't be easier. First, age the fabric with coffee mixed with water and leave to dry or if you're impatient like me, use your heat tool. Ink up your stamps and stamp away to your heart's content before wrapping it around a wooden spool. To make it more special, especially if you are giving it as a gift, you could add a little embellishment; I did this using a pocket watch and a scrap of stamped fabric.



► Family Values

By Tracy Evans

Cut a piece of white card to the same size as your card blank. Press Vintage Photo Distress Ink onto a non-stick craft sheet, spritz with water and mop up ink with the card. Apply Ground Espresso Distress Ink onto the stencil, spritz with water and place onto card. Remove and dry with heat tool. Randomly stamp the number stamp in Ground Espresso Distress Ink onto the background. Add corrugated card and cotton thread to background. Cut two pieces of white card 3" x 3.5" and colour as before with Vintage Photo Distress Ink. Use a corner rounder on the corners. Distress edges with scissors and colour with Ground Espresso Distress Ink. Press two cards onto inked Family Values stamp to make alignment easier. Adhere to the card front, adding two small banners behind. Stamp 'family' and 'comfort' with Black Archival ink onto white card, cut out and add to card. Cut out a heart, colour with Candied Apple Distress Ink and adhere. Colour edges of the decorated panel with Ground Espresso Distress Ink and adhere to the front of the card.

DESIGNER TIP...

If you are only stamping part of an image from a large stamp then press the card onto the stamp; alignment is so much easier this way.



Materials

STAMPS: Artistic Stamper – Family Values. INKS: Distress – Ground Espresso; Walnut Stain; Candied Apple; Archival – Black. OTHER: String; cotton thread; corrugated card; white card; Tim Holtz Sizzix Die – Heartfelt; Ink Blending Tool; Corner Rounder Punch; Tim Holtz Layering Stencil – Chevrons; Tiny Attacher; Tim Holtz Kraft Core Metallic Cardstock; Spellbinders Nestabilities Standard Circles – Large.

◀ Family Values Variation

By Tracy Evans

Create an A4 card. Cut a piece of white card to fit the card front. Distress the edges of the card with scissors. Colour the background of the card with Vintage Photo Distress Ink. Add twine across the centre and secure in place with a Tiny Attacher. Cut a piece of white card to the size of the focal image, ink the stamp with Black Archival Ink and stamp onto the card. Distress the edges and apply Ground Espresso ink. Matt the focal image onto a piece of metallic card and then onto a piece of corrugated card and adhere to the card front. Die cut a circle from white card, ink part of the image with Black Archival ink and press the circle onto the stamp. Adhere the circle onto the focal image to give a spotlight effect. Die cut two small hearts from white card, colour with Vintage Photo Distress Ink and adhere. Stamp 'love' onto white card, cut out and adhere.





► Family Values Frame

By Jennie Boxall

I decided to use the Family Values stamp as a starting point and give it a vintage style photo frame. I used a Seth Apter technique of layering lots of PaperArtsy Fresco Finish Chalky paints. The first layer is three dark colours. Add them randomly, and not all over the frame. When dry, add red and blue shades, followed by white and yellow shades. I added more colour by using paint on the mini polka dots background stamp to add texture, and even more texture by brushing paint on a watercolour sheet and just pressing lightly onto the frame. Use an ink pad in red to edge the frame randomly. Finish the frame by adding DecoArt Crème Wax and polishing lightly to bring up a sheen and help to protect it. The photograph was stamped in Sepia Archival ink.

Materials

STAMPS: The Artistic Stamper – Family Values; Mini Polka Dots Background.
INKS: Archival – Sepia; Red.
OTHER: PaperArtsy Fresco Finish Paint; DecoArt Crème Wax; Ikea frame.



◄ Triptych

By Jennie Boxall

Here I made a triptych using three ATC canvases and the same technique as I used in my Family Values Frame project. For this project, I instead used bright colours and added texture to the canvas boards with wet paint on a watercolour sheet. I stamped the words and numbers from the Family Values stamp onto painted craft paper with an Archival ink pad and added Distress Crayons to the edges to accent. I joined the three canvas boards with sticky back canvas and painted down the joins. Finally, I added some Tim Holtz Idea-ology Alpha Parts numbers to complete the design.

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“Applying alcohol ink and Snow Cap Mixative to embellishments, creating the appearance of agate, proved to be my favourite technique. I liked turning plastic to stone!”



Masterclass: Alcohol Ink

Use alcohol inks to develop wonderfully colourful effects and finishes. By Christine Dark

DESIGNER TIP...

Wear protective gloves as the ink stains for days!

According to the product information, 'Ranger Enamel Accents is a dimensional, opaque medium with a high gloss finish.' Originally they came in two tones, black and white, but now they come in ten additional luscious colours.

I tended to use them for doodling and dotting, but this addition of colour prodded me to look further into what they can do.

I particularly love the high gloss effect which looks fantastic on die cuts and embellishments, and the fact that it's opaque which means you don't have to bother masking your stamps in the final piece as the enamel covers up any overlapping stamping. The fine point tip means you can pipe outlines quite easily as well as fill in the centres.

The enamel look is great for creating enamel effects as in the pendant piece and they will also colour on multiple surfaces as well as paper and card, for example, metal, acetate, acrylic, wood, glass, MDF etc.



*Meet the Designer,
Christine Dark*

"I've been crafting, demonstrating and giving craft classes since 2008 but have been creative since childhood in all kinds of arts and crafts activities. I'm fond of all types of media and love trying out new products but you can't beat the anticipation of ink on new stamps!"

Explore her work online:
www.sketchingstamper.blogspot.co.uk

Materials

Stamps Christine used...

- PaperArtsy Eclectica Kay Carley: EKC06

Other materials...

- Ranger: Alcohol inks and mixatives; ink applicator; blending solution
- Glossy card
- Yupo paper
- Self adhesive metal tape or metal card
- Rectangular canvas
- Crafts Too: Open Roses Embossing Folder
- Ranger: Chit Chat stickers
- TCW stencil: Parasols
- Plastic/metal embellishments
- White rectangle canvas
- Sizzix: Framelits Tag Collection Dies
- Twine

Go Shopping!

PaperArtsy stamps are available from PaperArtsy, www.paperartsy.co.uk

Alcohol inks and other craft products are all available from The Craft Barn
www.thecraftbarn.co.uk, 07958 569279



Masterclass: Alcohol Ink

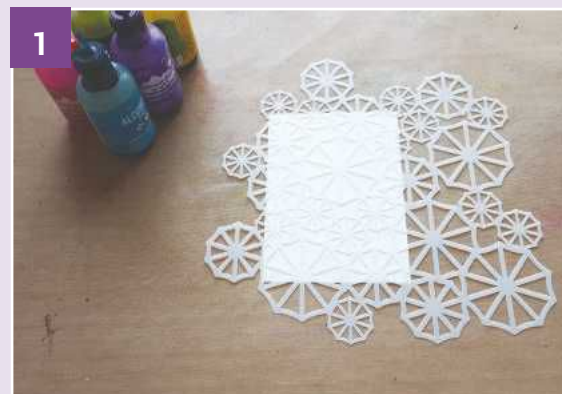


TOP TOOL...

Using the applicator tool and felt is the easiest way to apply the ink.

Technique 1: Stencilled Alcohol Ink

Achieve unpredictable results by dropping ink through a stencil onto Yupo paper and allowing it to dry to reveal beautiful patterns.



- 1 Place stencil onto Yupo paper, (unbordered stencils work better as they lie flatter).
- 2 Drop alcohol inks into the spaces in the stencil. Use colours that are harmonious and will blend well.
- 3 Allow to dry completely then lift stencil to reveal pattern beneath. Clean stencil with blending solution.

Technique 2: Alcohol Ink Stamping

Alcohol ink works well for stamping even on fine lined stamps such as the PaperArtsy flower stamps I used for this technique.



- 1 Apply generous amounts of harmonious colours of alcohol inks to a clean felt on an ink applicator.
- 2 Dab the colour around the stamp and check the coverage by holding to the light to see that it is wet everywhere.
- 3 Stamp down onto glossy cardstock and press well to ensure even transfer of ink.

Technique 3: Painting with Alcohol Ink

The consistency of alcohol ink makes it possible to apply it in a similar manner to watercolour paint.



- 1 Stamp an image onto glossy card using alcohol ink and allow to dry. Add chosen inks to craft sheet.
- 2 Paint flowers. I started with one colour and left space to add another into each one for interest.
- 3 Continue painting until the image is complete, mixing the inks on the image to create new colours in some areas.



Technique 4: Alcohol Ink with Embossed Metal and Gesso

Use alcohol inks on gesso covered metal to achieve a matte painted finish with shiny highlights.



- 1 Apply self adhesive metal tape to card then emboss with the embossing folder and paint with gesso to cover the metal.
- 2 Apply inks and allow to disperse over card. If there's a particular image in the embossing it can be filled with appropriate colours.
- 3 When the ink is completely dry, sand over the raised embossing with sandpaper to reveal the metal.

Technique 5: Alcohol Ink and Embellishments

Wonderful effects can be achieved on all sorts of surfaces with the addition of Snow Cap mixative. Create gorgeous patina and agate finishes!



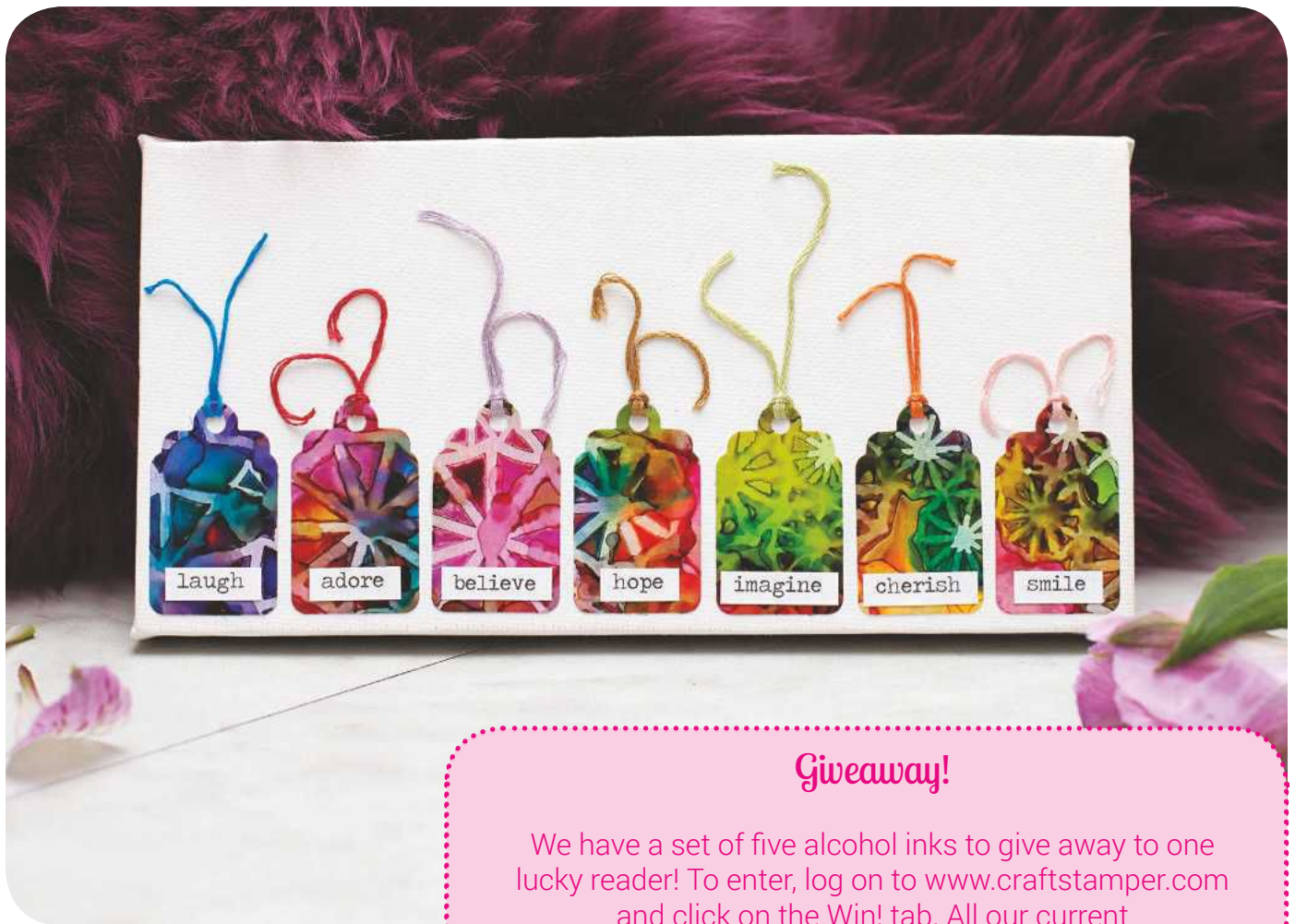
- 1 Add bold colours of ink and Snow Cap mixative to an applicator. Bolder colours will still be visible after mixing with the white ink whereas paler colours may become too pastel.
- 2 Apply to the embellishment, making sure to cover all sides on clear plastic to prevent light shining through.
- 3 More than one coat may be necessary, particularly to plastic embellishments. Add other colours for variation.



Fun Floral Gift Box

I decorated a gift box using sections of my experimental technique samples. Often larger pieces look even better when they're cut down and layered up like this. I cut a wide strip from the metal card piece and glued to the box first. Next I cut out the flower and added Chit Chat stickers on top. Finally, I threaded together a tag cut from the stenciled Yupo and two of my inked embellishments with colourful twine glued just under the flower. For an extra touch of shine, I used silver mixative to make the flower centres and add a dotted border.

Further Ideas



Giveaway!

We have a set of five alcohol inks to give away to one lucky reader! To enter, log on to www.craftstamper.com and click on the Win! tab. All our current giveaways will be displayed there.

Good Luck!

▲ Tag Canvas

I was delighted with the little tag I cut for the gift box and continued to cut more of them. I was pleased with how they looked side by side which led to them being presented on a rectangular canvas with colourful twine. The finishing touches are the little Chit Chat sticker words.



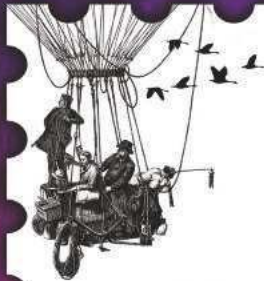
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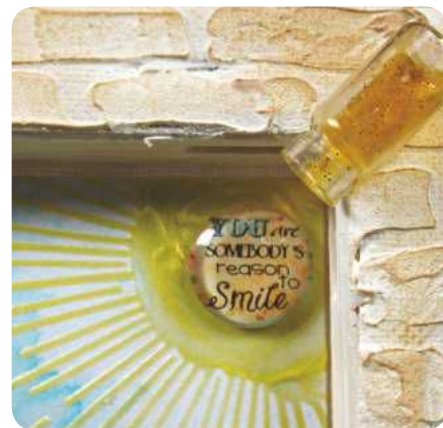
3D Challenge on p.54

We have an absolutely stunning collection of makes in 3D Challenge this issue, one of which is Lynne Moncrieff's gorgeous, 'Nature Girl'. We just love the layering of driftwood, lace and fragments of old book text 'carried on the wind'. So magical!



Sweet Spring on p.32

Take a closer look at our beautiful cover star make by Brenda Brown. Nestled atop this sweet assemblage, is a cluster of eggs adorned with reindeer moss and delicate paper flowers. Gently distressed and finished with pearl centres, the flowers are the perfect addition.



Retailer Project: Craft Box on p.60

To complete her playful project, Craft Box designer Claire Chapman has beautifully bottled some sunshine! The lovely golden sun beaming down on the cute house appears to have been poured straight from a bottle! We think it's a great quirky little detail.



Take It, Make It Challenge Winner on p.80

This month's featured Take It, Make It challenge winner, Amanda Pink crafted a wonderful wintery make which we felt perfectly depicted the icy, blustery feeling of wintertime. We especially loved the heavily crackled icicles and sensational layering of colour in the background.



Stamping Contrasts on p.64

When asked to use the 'Family Values' stamp in her Stamping Contrasts makes, Tracy Evans decided to use it in conjunction with a sepia colour palette. We love her use of tonal layering here, perfectly accented by a fab pop of red on the little heart.




Over the Garden Wall on p.18

This month Tracy Scott crafted a bright and beautiful floral canvas for us. The deep, rich colours of the blooms have been enhanced by splatters of gold paint. The splatters really help to add a sense of movement and a touch of luxury.

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Blog Challenge Winner

Amanda Pink is the winner of our
December Take It, Make It Challenge!

We just love how Amanda has
captured the magic of
winter in this stunning canvas.



Learn more about our latest
Take It, Make It challenge winner!



Amanda Pink, Sheffield, UK
www.ink-a-pink.blogspot.co.uk

TIMI Winners Profile

Q Do you think your stamping/mixed media style has changed since you began stamping, and if so, how?

A I'm not so sure my style has changed as I still love to create grungy, vintage, arty type projects, but I do think it has evolved over time and will hopefully continue to do so as I gather even more experience and knowledge. The creative journey is one enthralling ride!

Q Do you have a 'go to' technique that you love to use?

A I love trying out any technique but I guess if I had to choose a 'go to' it would be Tim Holtz wrinkle free distress technique or maybe a crackle technique.

Q Do you have a favourite colour combo?

A Now that changes all the time as I discover and try out new combinations of colour. I'm always happy to be working in any shade of blue and I have a lot of love for the classic monochrome combo – black, white and grey/silver.

*We can't wait to see what
YOU'LL come up with for our
challenge! Get involved, get stamping and
you never know you might get lucky! We
launch a new challenge on the first Friday
of every month, to find out more log onto
www.craftstamper.blogspot.com*

Q Inks or paints? Or both?!

A Both for sure. A crafter can never have enough of either, right?

Q Can you remember the first stamp you ever bought...
And do you still use it?

A That would be a wood mounted stamp, 'Spikey' by Stampotique. I knew little about the popularity of the brand at the time, I just loved Spikey's funky look. She used to see the ink regularly but I have to admit I have neglected her of late. Though, I'm sure she will make a 'comeback' appearance soon.

"The 'Magic of Winter', using a frosty palette of blue, white and silver was the inspiration behind my canvas. I added texture and dimension to create an arty canvas with a snowy feel and wintry spirit."

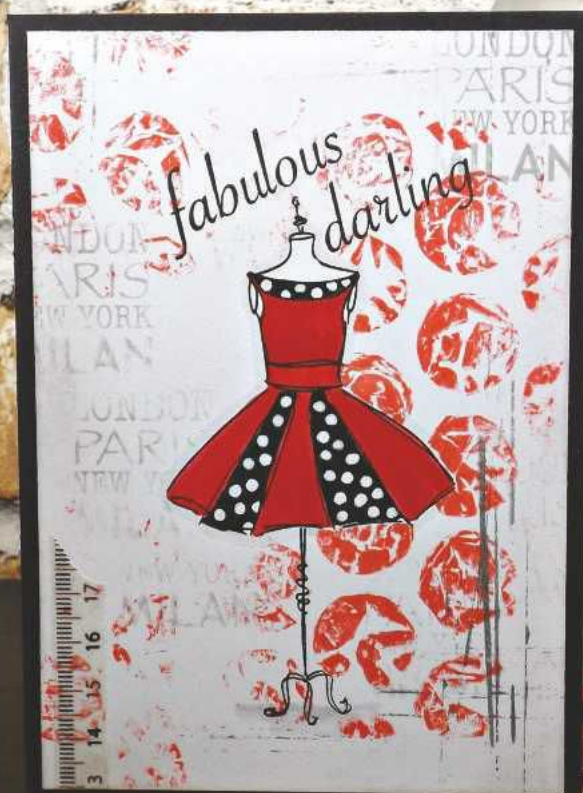


Take a Peek

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issue on sale
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