



polymer art
arte polimera
art polymère
arte polimérica

“Technique and skills must be absorbed and wrapped up and put away to become such an integral part of yourself that they will be revealed in your work without your thought...” (Shoji Hamada)

WEEK 6: Tabula Rasa

Imagine what it's like to leave everything behind and jump into the unknown. Look at Yves Klein's photo. What does it mean to you?

Let's look at how we spend a lot of our time: agonising on deciding what to make next, sketching projects, learning new techniques. In these ways, we may find ourselves frozen in time looking for this spark of inspiration, our masterpiece.

Up to now we have emphasised technique and tools because our relationship to these is often what characterises how we started with polymer clay.

This week is about charting a new direction, which trusts our instincts in the studio, letting our hands show our mind what they want to make, connecting at a primal, immediate level with the clay. There will be no theory, no deciding what to make, no planning, no tutorial, no sketchbook, no techniques, no tools (except a pasta machine to condition) and no expectation of a masterpiece. The only expectation is to be surprised.

Therefore,

- go into the studio and condition enough clay to make a ball about 3 cm in diameter. Use preferably soft clay,
- hide the pasta-machine with a cloth after you have conditioned the clay,
- go to the course Showcase and, holding the ball in your hands, look at the images,
- stop looking at the Showcase when your hands are ready to create and shift your focus onto how the clay feels in your hands. Do not copy the pieces in the Showcase,
- using your hands as tools, shape the ball. Things your hands might decide to do



Yves Klein – Le saut dans le vide (Leap into the void)

- include: pinching, twisting, probing, pulling stretching, pulling apart, tearing, marking indenting and so on,
- do not use any other tools,
 - don't look at the clock. Be aware that the process may make you feel tense. Resist the demons of impatience and tension.

When your hands have finished, look at what you have made. Do not judge the piece. Reflect on what you have learned.

Take a picture and post it in an Album labelled “Week6”.

Comments on what your hands taught you using the following link:

<http://voila.eu.com/forums/Forum/week-6-tabula-rasa/>