

Sculpture: Air-Drying Clay Framed Relief

by Kim Fjordbotten

Materials

Air-drying clay like DAS or Paperclay
Cookie cutters
Stamps or found objects for creating texture
Assorted decorative papers
Recycled picture frame
A key
Acrylic paint: dark brown, red and gold
or
Acrylic paint: Paynes grey, light blue and silver



Project: 'Key to My Heart'

1. Roll the clay to about 1/8 to- 1/4 inch thick. Do not make it thicker or it will be too heavy to mount on the paper.
2. Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter or simply cut out a heart in the clay with a butter knife.
3. Use ready-made stamps or other objects to press textures in the clay.
4. Press a key deep into the clay shape to create an impression, then remove the key.
5. After the clay has dried overnight, paint the entire heart in red acrylic paint.
6. Highlight the top edges by rubbing on gold acrylic paint. Let the piece dry again.
7. Trace the shape of the key onto coloured paper, cut it out and glue the paper-key into the impression made by the same key.
8. Glue coloured or decorative paper onto heavy cardboard to create a pleasing background.
9. Use a glue gun to glue the heart onto the paper.
10. Put your finished 'Key to My Heart' into a deep picture frame.



Project: 'Reindeer'

1. Sketch a few characters in a sketchbook.
2. Create a paper stencil from your favourite drawing. Make sure it is a rather chunky design that will be durable in clay.
3. Roll out the clay to about 1/4" thick using a rolling pin.
4. Test how different textures look in the clay.
5. Use stamps and found objects until you find a texture you like.
6. Place the stencil on the clay and cut it out with a pointed clay tool.
7. Remove the piece and leave it to dry on a tea towel overnight.
8. Paint it with acrylics to look like antiqued metal by painting a base coat of Payne's Grey acrylic then adding highlights with silver paint just on the raised edges.
9. Mount it onto a cardboard backing using a hot glue gun.
10. Place in a deep shadow-box frame.

Other Project Ideas

These projects translate well to real fire clay, too.
Imagine framed ceramic fish for Father's Day.
Imagine a boxed butterfly made of brightly coloured ceramic or polymer clay.