

Creating Polymer Clay Characters

with

Maureen Carlsson

Maureen has been creating clay characters for 40 years, so she knows lots of tips and tricks for making what looks like a difficult process become one that even polymer clay beginners can accomplish. She also brings a wealth of teaching experience along with her as she guides you in the step-by-step process of creating your own clay character.

Level: Beginner and above. Some experience with polymer clay is helpful, so if you're new to clay, buy a package and just play with it for a bit to see how it feels in your hand. Roll a few balls and snakes. Make a snowman or a flower. See how it responds to warmth and pressure. Like it? Come take the class and see what you can do!



Expressive Characters – May 3 & 4, 2018

In this class you'll learn some MAGIC TRICKS! At least that's what it might feel like when your clay character comes to "life" right before your eyes. You'll use polymer clay, a bit of wire, a strip of aluminum foil, a dab of paint, a found rock or two and your imagination to create a whimsical character straight from the Land of Imagination. Whether you choose to create a Troll, Leprechaun, Elf, Gnome or just some lovable and wonderful character, your creation is sure to bring a smile to your face, and, just perhaps, a story or two along with it!

Day one of class will be all about faces and hands. Even if you've never sculpted before, you'll find that following Maureen's process for making a face is a bit like following a recipe. And you can do it! Those students who have sculpted before will be given tips for refining their sculpting process. There will also be molds available for those who would like to experiment first with using molds, then tweaking them to create their own one-of-a-kind creations.

Day two will be all about clothing, hair and adding details.

Come join the fun. Bring your sense of humor and a willingness to try something new. Then be prepared to greet a character straight from the realm of story.



Whimsical Teacup Fairy – May 5 & 6, 2018

Fairies Here and There and Everywhere!

These sweet, whimsical fairies reflect the joy and humor that abounds in favorite childhood tales. Now you can bring this magic into reality with a bit of polymer clay and some tips and tricks from Maureen.

If you've not worked with polymer clay before, you'll find it a bit like using a firm play dough. But there the similarity ends. Polymer clay characters, when baked in a toaster oven, becomes strong enough to be permanent visitors to your bookshelf, kitchen cupboard, fairy garden or collector cabinet (though fairies need to be close enough to the window to catch a glimpse of the bluebirds flying by or the lilacs in full bloom. They ARE fairies, after all!) Polymer clay characters can be outside, but need to be in a protected place where they are not subject to direct sunlight or constant moisture.

Day one of class will be all about creating sweet, simple faces. Don't let the word "simple" fool you, however. Every line in a simple face matters, which is why we'll have ample time to "play" with faces. A whole day! By the end of day one you might even have a whole community of little faces lined up, ready for bodies!

Day two is when we'll indulge in the fun of making fairy clothing, wings, hair and flower wreaths. Delightful!

Since sweet faces are harder to create than craggy ones, this class is positioned AFTER the Thursday/Friday class, where students will learn to make Expressive Clay Characters. These classes compliment each other, so sign up for both classes and build on your skills.

Maureen Bio: Maureen Carlson has been working with polymer clay since 1979, when fellow artist Anne Fisher from the Minnesota Renaissance Festival suggested that she use it for creating her Wee Folk. That conversation led to a whole world of opportunity, literally, as 36 years later you can find Maureen Carlson books and Push Molds in polymer clay workshops around the world. Since then she has written for magazines, worked with American Art Clay Company as a polymer clay demonstrator and consultant and was a frequent guest on the Carol Duvall show on HGTV. She has written 14 polymer clay books, including *How to Make Clay Characters* (Northlight Books), *Clay Techniques for a Pasta Machine* (Design Originals) and *FIMO Folk* (Hot Off the Press). Her original clay characters have been featured as licensed collectibles, most recently with Abbey Press in a line called *Sister Folk*. She is most drawn to sculpture but uses a wide variety of polymer clay techniques in her surface design work. From 1998 to 2015 she and her husband, Dan, operated Maureen Carlson's Center for Creative Arts in Jordan, MN, which specialized in polymer clay workshops and retreats. She and Dan continue their on-line presence at weefolk.com. Currently Maureen is concentrating on her own studio work as well as imagining ways that storytelling, photography and polymer clay might be combined to create wonder and joy.

MaureenCarlson.com

Classes will be held each day from 10:00 – 5:00 (with a break for lunch)

Quality Suites conference room
1501 Gibson Boulevard, Albuquerque

Cost of each two day workshop is \$210.00
Students taking both workshops pay \$380.00

To secure your spot a 50% deposit is required
as soon as you receive confirmation that space is available.
Balance of payment must be received by March 31
to allow lead time for securing good flight rates.

Payment by check should be made out to Annie Hooten and sent to

Annie Hooten
1720 Ross Place SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Please contact Annie if you prefer to pay through PayPal.

No cancellations will be accepted after March 31 unless you are able to personally find a replacement to take your spot or there is a waiting list with someone available to take your place. All cancellations will incur a \$50 administration fee.

Once your deposit is received you will receive a materials list and complete information about the week's activities

I am always available for any questions you have and I look forward to welcoming you!!

Annie Hooten
hootenannie4@aol.com
Phone (505) 228-8703

Registration for Maureen Carlson workshops.

This form must be signed and returned with your deposit.

___ I will attend Expressive Characters class \$210.00

___ I will attend Whimsical Teacup Fairy class \$210.00

___ I will attend both classes \$380.00

Name:

Address:

Cell phone:

Email:

Blog and/or website:

I have read and understood cancellation and refund details.

Signature

Date