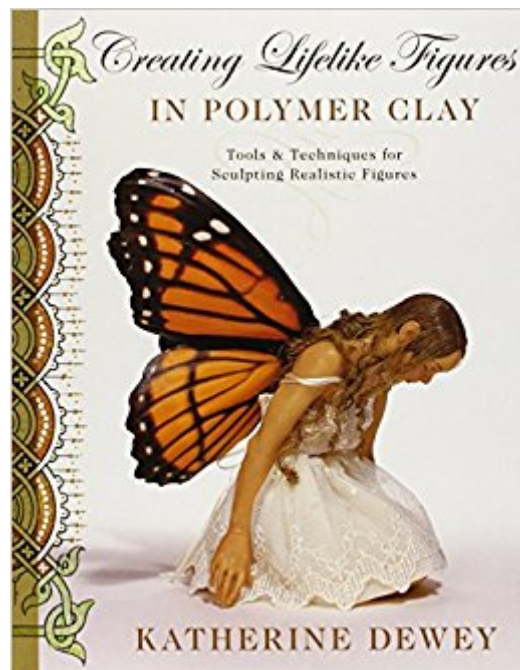




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# Creating Lifelike Figures In Polymer Clay: Tools And Techniques For Sculpting Realistic Figures



## Synopsis

Katherine Dewey's expressive and elegantly detailed sculptures enchant all who see them. With the magical medium of polymer clay and this book, you can follow in her footsteps. Thorough instructions supported by more than 400 step-by-step color photos and 200 detailed drawings cover the entire process of sculpting realistic figures. Easy-to-read maps of the figure illustrate the landmarks of the body, while scale diagrams indicate the simple shapes hidden within the human form, as well as how to combine and model those shapes. For anyone who loves fantasy, romance, nature or sophisticated crafting this book is a must-have.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Elvenwork Press published "Creating Life-Like Figures in Polymer Clay" by Katherine Dewey to the very highest quality standards, employing the best production talent there is. Our world-class author deserved nothing less. We are very proud to present the work of a highly respected artist, author, and teacher in a way that clearly shows her every move and we are thankful for the high praise both author and publisher have already received. If you have a drive to create beauty and form from a lump of clay, we know you will treasure "Creating Figures" as much as we do. [produced entirely in the USA] --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

You hold in your hands a magical book, your guide to a realm where anyone can learn to sculpt. Katherine Dewey entered this remarkable world years ago. Her expressive and elegantly detailed sculptures enchant all who see them. With the magical medium of polymer clay and this book, you

can follow in her footsteps. Easy-to-read maps of the figure illustrate the landmarks of the body. Scale diagrams indicate the simple shapes hidden within the human form. Thorough instructions describe how to model these shapes and how to combine them. Practical and intuitive steps lead the way to creating strong, realistic and expressive figures. Welcome to Katherine Dewey's world, where magic happens. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have been trying to pick up figure sculpting, so I decided to give this book a try after reading some of the reviews of it. For me, this book is mostly a success, with the exception of a few issues which kept me from giving this book 5 stars.- It follows conventions that don't seem very common to sculpting, so I found it difficult to combine the techniques found in this book with other sculpting techniques I've learned.- It asks you to make some of the tools you'll need to use ( carving and sculpting unique handles, etc) and then requires you to use them to complete some of the books projects.- most directions tell you to use aluminum foil as a core instead of armature wire, which I found to be more difficult. Otherwise, I felt it explained it's techniques very clearly and, with practice, I found that it was possible to achieve results similar to the author's finished figures.

A very useful book, almost a cookbook approach to creating figures. That is not a slight to the book or author, by the way. Chapters on making arms, legs torsos and heads as separate pieces while keeping the proportions ... well proportional. Tips on clothing and fabric folds as well as details that increase realism in the finished sculpture. This book is specifically about polymer clay so all the tips and steps are about working with this medium. It includes tips which were new to me (after 5 years of using polymer clay), including how to bake sculptures larger than the oven, how to avoid burns and pressure points and how to make your own tools for your particular style of sculpting. Many books on polymer clay are more like diaries - repeating manufacturers recommendations and simple designs. This is much more - almost a textbook for improving your work. Glad I bought this one.

Katherine Dewey well done!!!! your work on this book is awesome, you enable people to duplicate your work by describing and showing us the tools you used and how you used them, and how to make them to duplicate your work in this book. Thank you very much for making so much clear.

I only recently discovered polymer clay, and had so far only made a few beads, and a few failed attempts at simple animal sculptures. I wanted to attempt figure sculptures, but I had absolutely no experience with anything like that. After looking through all the books available, I chose this one,

primarily because the figures were more realistic and life-like than some of the other books available. Choosing this book was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I got the book on a Saturday afternoon, and on Sunday sat down with it and began working on my first face. In a few hours I had a figure head completed that amazed me - it was incredibly realistic and life-like. It looked like a real person. Even I hadn't expected such advanced results on my first project. Don't get me wrong - it's not perfect, and I still have a lot to learn and practice. I expected that - but what I didn't expect was for my very first piece to be that good. While it's possible I have some previously unknown skill for sculpting (though it's certainly never shown up before this), I give most of the credit to this book - because the instructions are so incredibly detailed that if you pay attention, do what it says, and take your time, you can't go wrong. You CAN learn to make beautiful, life-like figures in clay. The book starts out with a good overview of different clays, so you can make an informed choice in that regard. Then the author shows you how to make every tool you'll need to complete a figure as she describes the process. You would need to buy only a few simple and inexpensive things, some of which you might already have on hand. It's wonderful to be able to create such beautiful things without having to spend a fortune on specialized tools. I was too impatient to make all the tools before I dived into attempting the sculpting, so I made my first head and face sculpture with nothing but a couple of knitting needles, a craft knife, and a needle which I already had on hand. Astounding what you can do with clay using a knitting needle. But having gotten that out of my system, I do intend to make the simple tools she describes, as I can see how valuable they will be. After those chapters, the author gets right into the meat of the book - teaching you how to make the figures. The instructions are incredibly detailed and precise, even down to measuring exactly how much clay to use for each part - which may seem tedious at first, but getting proportions right is one of the hardest parts of creating a realistic figure, and this takes the guesswork out of that, until you build your skill enough to be able to 'eyeball' proportions on your own. But none of that means you're going to turn out cookie cutter figures that all look alike. The author also gives you the information you need to customize and personalize each figure you create. She gives a lot of information about the differences in sculpting male and female figures, and different ethnic features, creating figures at different ages, and giving the face different expressions, from happy to sad or angry. This combined with your own creativity and willingness to experiment would enable you to make any type of figure you could imagine. The book is filled with detailed pictures and diagrams, so you don't have to guess at what you need to do for a particular step. The background information on anatomy is just enough to make sense and help you, without getting so detailed your eyes glaze over and you give up. The book also provides detailed information to make figures in 4 different

sizes, and plenty of information on clothing your figure, adding hair, and other embellishments for a beautiful, complete finished figure. To sum up: Sculpting is a skill that takes time to learn, but with your own patience and willingness to work at it, this book will give you all of the foundation information you could ever need to make beautiful figure sculptures.

The bottom line: This is THE book to learn how to sculpt figures, in polymer clay, or other mediums. Besides that, this is simply an awesome book on polymer clay, no matter what you are making. You will not regret this purchase! On a longer note: I have had the impression for a long time that many, if not most, artists (and sometimes chefs), want to give us enough to be satisfied, but don't give us everything, so we'll come back for their next book. Case in point, Maureen C. Has given us "... Clay Characters", and "Family and Friends...", which are both decent tomes, but as my 15-year-old son noticed, there are missing steps. We see how to shape the hands, how to cut the fingers, and how to shape the fingernails, but it's not clear what to do every step of the way. Katherine Dewey has given us a real gift; a book that shows us ALL the steps, while also making the steps possible to achieve. So, I think if you're still treading here, it's time to get a hobby! To put it more nicely; I think most of us want enough of a review to help us decide whether or not to make a purchase, but not an entire synopsis from cover to cover. This book is in my top 5 favorite books on polymer clay, and my absolute favorite favorite book on sculpting figures. Buy it, enjoy it, and maybe Katherine will give us another volume on other areas of polymer clay, such as real animals, or fictional people and beasts! Happy PCing - Andrew in OKC

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