



**Debby Hughes**

We are very excited to have the amazing [Debby Hughes](#) for this month's exclusive interview. We asked a few questions to learn more about Debby and to gain some great tips and advice on cardmaking/photography.

**1. What motivated you to start making cards and begin stamping?**

I was asked by a friend to help at the local community center with a pre-school art class. It was very simple projects – lots of splashing of paint, gluing and teaching motor skills like how to use scissors but it reignited my own interest. From there I briefly forayed into scrapbooking before preferring the smaller canvas of cards. My new hobby also tied in to the fact that I was at home with three small children and looking to carve a little me time while still being at home.

**2. Where do you find inspirations for your wonderful coloring techniques?**

I admit I'm a Pinterest junkie! I love the color swatch photographs you find on there from places like Design Seeds. I find the combination of color and photography really inspiring. If I'm looking to color a specific image such as a flower or a reindeer then I look it up on Google images and take my coloring from nature. It's often interesting to find the color variation in an animal's coat – you might think squirrels are grey but when you look at them they have rusty brown tones around their faces and pale fur on their tummies.

**3. Please share advice on finding inspiration/developing creativity in making cards/crafting projects (i.e. finding creative mojo)**

Oh the elusive mojo! I usually have more ideas and things I want to try running around in my head than I do time. However, I often find returning from a family holiday that my mojo is still in holiday mode! I think it is time away from my craft desk that causes it. The more time you can get to create I think the more that creative muscle is exercised and strengthened.

However, when I do find myself in a rut I have a couple of coping mechanisms. The first is to tidy up and organize my craft supplies. I often find that when I come across a long lost stamp set or embellishment pack that I can't wait to get using it. Another thing I do is to look back at my own cards. I'm very inspired by the work of others, but I like to make sure that my cards are my own so when I need a creative kick start I will browse back through my photos and it's not long before I find a technique or design I want to revisit.

#### **4. Do you have a specific style that you are comfortable with or like to stick to?**

I do like to try different styles and techniques but find my comfort zone in soft elegant designs with a nod towards the clean and simple. It is healthy to push yourself though and when I used to do more of the online challenge blogs, I found that a really tricky project was often one I was very happy and proud with my end result.

#### **5. Can you share a favorite card you made previously using Altenew products?**

It's difficult to pick a favorite but when I think of Altenew my mind automatically goes to one set in particular; [Persian Motifs](#) from their second ever release when Altenew were still pretty much the new kid on the block but winning everyone over with their designs. It was Persian Motifs that got me digging out my old watercolor tubes for [this card](#) and from there in 2014 I have had an amazing journey learning more about watercoloring.



The card itself is not brilliant but it is that emotional connection with where that set led me that makes it special to me. It was also the same Persian Motifs set that I combined with one of my favorite supplies; vellum in [this card](#).

So for me favorites are more about the emotional connections with techniques than actually being technically any good in themselves!

## **6. You take amazing photos of your cards. Any few tips to share with crafters who are looking to improve their photography skills?**

Thank you! I do love photography and always strive to be better. I'm self taught and got my first point and shoot digital camera in 2004 when my youngest was born. From there I've spent a lot of time with my cameras along with books and online courses and over that time I've upgraded to various DSLRs (big mamma kind of cameras LOL). I think that more than the hardware though it is the knowledge and practice that improves photography. I've seen some stunning photographs from phones and basic cameras and some distinctly average photographs from very expensive cameras.

I have a series on my blog called [Lime Light](#) which aims to help with a few basics. It's been a popular series and one I really need to add some more content to. However, the best thing anyone can do is to learn about their camera and what it can do – yes dig out that manual! My other two top tips that I always suggest people try are:

Use natural light coming in from the side

Stabilise your camera on a tripod or solid surface – don't hand hold. You will be able to get longer exposures, allowing in more light and yet still have a sharp picture. I live in Scotland where we get a lot of very dim, dark days so this is essential for me.