



**Julia Altermann**

This month we are excited to have [Julia Altermann](#)! We hope you enjoy getting to know her a bit better in this month's newsletter.

**1. Share your story with us! What motivated you to start making cards and begin stamping?**

I've always loved being creative; especially since it's such a great way to wind down. My day jobs have always been and are about technology, programming, and problem-solving, so using my hands to color instead of my brain to think is pure relaxation for me. But I was completely unaware of the world of cardmaking until the summer of 2013. I wanted to create a Paris-themed card set for my dad who was turning 80. I was gifting him and my mom a trip to Paris, and the cards were supposed to be their travel guide, landmarks to visit. When I started my research on how to best do this, I discovered what card making was – die cutting at home, heat embossing, stamping and coloring ... I felt like I had just accidentally found my way into a fairy tale wonderland.

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

A lot of it comes from staring at stamp and die set for hour ;) Sometimes I have an idea just as I'm about to fall asleep (and then I have to debate whether to get up or try to remember it until next morning). A lot of my inspiration comes from my fellow crafters, though. I love looking at projects from crafters I admire, and then try to incorporate some of their style into

my projects. It's always challenging, but I learn so much by venturing out of my comfort zone.

**3. Sometimes we struggle with finding crafty mojo. Do you experience it as well? How do you get out of it?**

Oh yes, all the time! I usually go over to Pinterest to look at cards from my favorite designers and then I CASE them. Not necessarily for a project to share, but just to give me something to do. There are also times when I just walk away from card making for a week or two, and after a while I feel the urge to craft return. I also sometimes just color – not to create cards, but to practice techniques, and through that I sometimes spark a card idea. I just feel it's important not to push it; I believe that there's a reason that the mojo goes away sometimes, and you have to coax it back gently.

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

I feel most comfortable with clean and simple (even though I find it very difficult), but I just love the look of it. After a while, I usually feel the need to go the opposite direction, with many layers and extras, but I always end up in the CAS corner again eventually and I'm totally fine with that :)

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

Yes, [my favorite so far was this one](#). I love how I added color to only parts of image and contrasted it with the black white outline. There's another card that I'm really proud of, and you can find it on blog today, complete with a video tutorial, please check it out!



**6. What is your favorite medium to color with and why?**

That keeps changing! I love my Copic and colored pencils, but recently I found that I really like to mix different media (apply pencils on top of Copic or watercolor) to create even more depth and dimension. I also varies depending on the look I want to achieve: for anything super clean, I like my Copic, but if I'm going for more of an organic or natural look, I like my watercolors or chalk pastels. I don't think there's a "right or wrong", though - whatever medium makes you feel good, use it!