



Virginia Lu

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

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

Stamping has been part of my life for a long time now. I actually stumbled upon stamping when my 2nd child David was a baby and that was nearly 20 years ago. Stamping was first introduced to me by a local who showed me a few techniques. After that, I was completely hooked. A few years later I even hosted a stamping party for my daughter's birthday at a local stamp store! Throughout their years as young kids, I loved taking classes whenever I got a chance. Fast forward to 2009: my kids were older and more independent! With more time on my hands, I looked into online stamping groups and became active in participating in challenges. During this 2-3 year process, I was motivated to learn new techniques, acquire new stamps (who isn't?!), and make stamping friends. Card making became my way of life! I enjoyed sending cards and sharing them with people that I care about. I have even met up with many stampers from around the world—Amsterdam to Santorini, Greece! I no longer need to be motivated to stamp because it has become so fun and therapeutic for me.

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

I am a diehard stamper. I tend to rely heavily on my inks when I make cards. Bright and happy colors are my signature. I also love DETAILS! Once in a

while, I will come up with some different and clever ways of reusing stamps/dies. I've shared this on my blog before: "Ask not what your stamps can do for you, ask what you can do for your stamps." I can't quite say that I have a particular style, but I always strive for a modern and polished CAS design whenever possible.

3. You run an amazing challenge blog called Virginia's View - tells us about what made you get it started and what you love about running it!

The idea came when I simply wanted a "stamping party" on my blog in March 2014. I thought it would be fun to ask bloggers/stampers to share creations with a specific theme. I didn't seek to start a challenge blog. The first challenge theme "Watercolor" was so popular in the first week that I realized I could start a brand new blog and host more challenges there. Because I hadn't planned for this (I had no design team!), I enlisted my husband and daughter to help with the judging. They did their duty graciously for about a year and a half! I think they really knew their stuff when picking winners. What I love about the challenge blog is that card makers are such kind and encouraging people. We all benefit from sharing ideas and techniques. I must admit that I also learn from our participants often. I also get a thrill when I get to "discover" talented card makers and see them join design teams after winning my challenge! Over the last two years, I have been immensely encouraged by the participants and the monthly theme keeps us interested and engaged. There is always something new to learn.

4. What do you do when you hit a creative block to get out of it?

I love browsing old magazines, Pinterest, and store catalogs. When I'm lacking in creativity, I seek inspiration from these places. Sometimes, a trip to the local mall also helps. Seeing the window displays and advertisements help me think about my card designs! Sometimes that's where I get my best ideas from! These tricks work for me nearly every single time.

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

All of my Altenew cards are special. I love each and every one of them. However, I think this is my all-time favorite because it also has one of the most views on my YouTube Channel.



6. Ok, this is just for fun :) If you can only choose 3 crafting items to a remote island, what would you choose?

Assuming that I have needed stamps, inks and dies, I couldn't live without my Cuttlebug, micro Fiskars Scissors, and MISTI. They may be basic, but they sure are essential in my stamping life.