Dragon Eye Pendants
by Anita K. Buckowing
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Presented by Teresa Salgado and
www.tinypandora.com
StudioCryptique 2019 Be Seen, Be Known Design Team

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Questions or comments should be directed to
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or use the ABOUT/CONTACT
feature on https://tinypandora.com
I enjoy reading fantasy stories and I have always been fascinated by Dragons. This simple pendant allows me to have a dragon with me as often as I choose!

I hope you enjoy this project and I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions I can answer about it. I would love to see pictures of your projects!

~ Anita Buckowing anitabuckowing@gmail.com

A note about the clay used in this project—I constructed this project using PREMO brand polymer clay as this brand works well for sculptural projects. I encourage you to use your favorite brand of clay.

Join me to shape some clay and make some magic!

Materials (see last page for sources of some of these materials):
Glass Cabochon (flat backed)
Acrylic paint—I used Craft Smart Metallic Amethyst for this tutorial and DecoArt Metallic Sapphire for the video tutorial
Color Me Elephant kit from TinyPandora.com
Masking Tape
PYM-II preservative spray or other polymer-clay compatible sealant
Mica Powders (optional)— I used Tortuga SurfaceFX from Christi Friesen for this tutorial and Tide Pool SurfaceFX for the video tutorial
 Clay (all Premo brand; these are the colors I used for this project; try your own variations):
  Pearl—1 2-oz block
  Graphite Pearl—Less than 1/4 of a 2-oz block
  Wisteria—Less than 1/4 of a 2-oz block
Tools:
Pasta Machine (I use an Atlas 180—“0” is the thickest setting)
Work surface—a grid surface is helpful but not required
Baking pan with parchment paper
Foil to tent the project during baking
Sculpey Small Ball Tool, Needle Tool
Bowl with water for rinsing silk screen
Paper towels
Squeegee
Ruler
Paint Brush or sponge (to apply mica powder)
Clay blade
The process....

1) Select the predominant clay color for your project. I used PEARL for my samples. Condition 1/2 of the 2-oz block of PEARL. Roll out with your pasta machine using the 5th thinnest setting of your pasta machine ("4" on my Atlas 180). Create a sheet approximately 4" x 4".

2) Open your COLOR ME ELEPHANT package and remove the silkscreen and one of the bails. Set the bail aside for now.

3) Fill your water dish and set it close for ease of access.

4) Place the elephant silkscreen dark side down onto your 4" x 4" sheet.
5) Shake the bottle of acrylic paint & apply some paint onto one of the Elephant shapes that is on the clay sheet. Use your squeegee to force paint through the silkscreen. Remove the silkscreen and re-position onto a non-painted portion of the clay (it is okay to overlap the prior applied paint a little bit). Force more paint through the silkscreen (either use the same design or use one of the other design options available). Continue to apply paint and re-position and re-apply until the sheet is fully silkscreened. Immediately place the silkscreen into the water dish to prevent any paint from drying on the silkscreen. Clean the paint off of the squeegee using paper towel.

6) Allow the silkscreen to soak for a few minutes, then rinse under running water to remove any remaining paint. Place on paper towel to dry.

7) Let the painted clay sheet dry for at least an hour.
8) Condition the second 1/2 of the 2-oz block of PEARL and roll out on the thickest setting of your pasta machine ("0" on my Atlas 180). You are looking to make a sheet approximately 3” tall, 4” wide.

9) Use your Needle Tool to cut out a pointed oval (if needed, cut out an oval, then cut again to make it into a pointed oval). Make it approximately 2.75” point-to-point, 2” top-to-bottom.

10) Use a ruler to lightly scribe a line from point-to-point of the pointed oval. Measure the half way point along this line, then place the Glass Cabochon slightly higher than this center point.
11) Place bail approximately in the middle of the top arc of the pointed oval and press lightly into the clay.
12) Apply some of the scrap clay left from cutting out the pointed oval to cover the head of the bail. Press down to adhere to the clay beneath the bail.

13) Roll a small snake in the accent color (WISTERIA for my project).
14) Wrap this snake of clay around the Glass Cabochon. Lightly press down to adhere to pointed oval and hold the Glass Cabochon in place.
15) Use Small Ball Tool to apply texture to the accent eye ring you just created.

16) Condition a small amount of Graphite Pearl to create a wedge that will be used as an “eyelash”. Apply in an arc along the top of the Glass Cabochon. Press the Graphite Pearl clay down to adhere it firmly to the background.
17) Use the “neck” of the ball end of the Small Ball Tool to make indentations for individual “lashes”.

18) Use Needle Tool or X-Acto Knife to cut out thin oval strips from the silkscreened sheet. These will be the scales. Make varying widths & lengths of the oval strips.

19) Apply oval strips to pointed oval, working from longest to shortest available strip and applying from eye ring to edge. Add a 2nd layer of shorter ovals closer to eye ring. Add a 3rd layer of the shortest ovals next to the eye ring. Press each piece as applied to ensure adhesion to the clay beneath it. Turn the ends of the strips up a bit if desired. See the picture on the next page.

20) If desired, apply Mica powder to the tips of the oval strips and to the tips of the eyelashes.

21) Pre-heat oven to baking temperature as per manufacturer directions.

22) Place the pendant onto the parchment paper in the baking pan.

23) Tent with aluminum foil and bake for an hour.
23) Allow to cool, then remove from baking pan.
24) If you used Mica powders, the project should be sealed with sealant. Apply masking tape to the Glass Cabochon to protect it from the sealant.
25) Lightly spray with Pym-II or other chosen spray sealant.
26) Once the sealant has dried, remove the masking tape.
27) Attach chain or cord & enjoy your new Dragon Eye Pendant.

Sources of materials:
Color Me Elephant kit is available @ www.tinypandora.com
Tortuga & Tide Pool SurfaceFX Mica powders are available from www.christifriesen-store.com
Premo brand clay is available at many retail locations and from many online resources too. It can also be purchased directly from www.sculpey.com
Glass Cabochons are available from many retail locations (I used a BEAD LANDING glass cabochon in my sample); Nixcreations on Etsy makes wonderfully beautiful Glass Cabochons too and I encourage you to visit his Etsy store.

This basic design can be modified in many different ways to make various Dragon Eye Pendants. Try twisting the scale pieces to create an interesting effect or cut the thinner sheet in half and apply two different colors of paint using the silkscreen to provide a variety of “scale” options.
Play & Have fun!
~ Anita Buckowing
This shows the “scales” once they have been cut with the needle tool.

Some variations to try—a Dragon Eye bottle, a Dragon Eye Box, and a variety of styles of Dragon Eye Pendants.