3-D Windmill Sculptures

by Anita K. Buckowing
06/08/19

Presented by Teresa Salgado and
https://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 find Windmills fascinating and when I saw Teresa Salgado’s new BEADS & BLEND kit, I immediately KNEW I had to make some polymer clay Windmills!

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):**
Premo clay in your choice of colors—2 2 oz blocks (probably less)
TLS (Translucent Liquid Sculpey)
Super Glue (I like Loctite Gel Control)
Round Brass Tube 3/32 (I use K&S Precision Metals #8126—3 rods/package)
Jewelry Spring Coil Finding (Cord End) (I use Bead Landing brand)
T-Pin
Acrylic paint—You’ll need paint if you choose to use a silk screen to decorate your Windmill panels; alternatively, you could use Mica Powders through the silk screen.

**Tools:**
BEADS & BLENDS kit from https://tinypandora.com
Pasta Machine (I use an Atlas 180—“0” is the thickest setting)
Work surface—a grid surface is helpful but not required
Wire cutter (or tube cutter)
Pliers
Baking pan with parchment paper & foil to tent the project during baking
If using silk screen to decorate:
   Bowl with water for rinsing silk screen
   Paper towels
   Squeegee
   Paint brush (if using mica powders with the silk screen)
Clay blade (the BEADS & BLENDS kit comes with an awesome Clay Blade)
2019
StudioCryptique
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A Sculpture Project
Featuring Tiny Pandora’s Beads & Blends Kit
3-D Windmill Sculptures—
The Process

1) Prepare your materials
   - Cut the brass rod in half or in thirds with your wire cutter (note, if you cut into thirds, your middle section will have two compressed ends—if you want to use this as a tube, you should cut with a tubing cutter rather than a wire cutter). You will want to ensure the you retain the tube opening on at least one of the ends.
   - Measure approximately 1 inch down from the tube opening & use pliers to put a bend into the tube (bend to just slightly more than 90 degrees)
   - Cut the loop end and one or two coils off of the Spring Coil/Cord End jewelry finding.

2) Condition your 2 oz block of clay by hand, then use your Pasta Machine at setting # 2 to create a flat sheet at least two inches wide and longer than one of the acrylic triangles from the BEADS & BLENDS kit.

3) Use the chosen acrylic triangle and the long clay blade from the BEADS & Blends kit to cut out one triangle. Move the clay triangle off to one side. See picture above.

4) Re-compress your clay & roll out another clay strip; repeat cutting out the triangle. Again, set this clay triangle off to one side.
5) Repeat step 4 (to create a total of 3 clay triangles). You will use less than the full 2 oz block. Set the scrap aside to use on the edges of the sculpture during a later step.

6) At this stage, if you are going to use the clay “as is”, you can go ahead and bake the 3 clay triangles. Tent the clay & bake for 20-25 minutes. Proceed to step 14.

7) If you are choosing to decorate or enhance the sides of your windmill, prepare your decorating materials (silk screen, water, acrylic paint, paper towels, & squeegee if you are choosing to decorate via silk screen; alternatively, you can use mica powders or any other surface enhancements).

8) Lay your selected silk screen with the recommended side down on one of the clay triangles. Burnish it down with your squeegee to ensure the silk screen is completely flat.

9) Shake your bottle of acrylic paint, then apply some paint at one end of your silk screen. Use the squeegee to pull the paint up the length of the silk screen.

10) Lift the silk screen off of the clay and move it to the 2nd clay triangle. Repeat the application of the paint through the silk screen.

11) Again lift the silk screen off of the clay & move it to the 3rd clay triangle. Repeat the application of the paint through the silk screen.
12) Immediately immerse the silk screen into the water. Use a paper towel to wipe off the squeegee. Clean the squeegee and the silk screen under cool running water. Lay the silk screen flat to dry & dry off the squeegee. *(note, if you use the silkscreen repeatedly at the same time to complete the silkscreening, you probably will have a bit of a blurred-image by the 3rd triangle. IF you have have the patience, you will achieve the clearest silkscreened images if you individually silkscreen one side, then clean off the silkscreen, allow it to dry, then silkscreen the 2nd side, then clean off again, allow to dry, then silkscreen the 3rd side. I personally have never had enough patience to do it this way! :>)*)

13) Let the paint dry for at least an hour, then bake the 3 clay triangles (tent the clay and bake 20-25 minutes).

14) Once your three clay triangles are baked, you are ready to construct the body of the windmill.

15) Working with the 1st of the clay triangles, lay it flat and apply Super Glue at two spots along one long edge.

16) Pick up the 2nd clay triangle and apply it to this edge, making sure that the sides contact at the Super Glue spots. Hold the panel at a 60 degree angle for a few minutes until the Super Glue sets up.

17) Wait a few more minutes to ensure the 1st two glue spots have set.

18) Take the third clay triangle and apply glue to two spots.

19) Line up the side of the third clay triangle with the sides of the two clay triangles that are already attached together. Hold the third clay triangle in place until the glue sets up.

20) Add two glue spots along the intersection of the last two sides that are not glued. Hold the sides together until the glue sets up.
21) Allow the newly constructed three-sided shape to rest for a bit to ensure all of the glue spots are now holding all sides in place.

22) Inspect the opening at the top. Is it sufficient to allow the brass rod to be inserted? If not, use your clay blade or a sharp knife to remove some of the baked clay (and I recommend saving the pieces of baked clay for a future mosaic project).

23) Using the clay left over from the original creation of the clay triangles (see step 5), roll out a thin snake of clay (less than 1/4 inch diameter).

24) Run a thin stripe of Translucent Liquid Sculpey (TLS) along the length of one of the sides of the triangle form. Allow this to sit for a few minutes (to make the TLS bond with the baked clay better).

25) Apply the thin snake of clay along this edge. Extend the snake of clay past the top of the narrow tip of the construction. I often make the snake of clay “fatter” at the bottom end to provide a better base (see picture on page 11).

26) Use your thumb and “roll” the clay down to seal it to the length of the sides. This same process of manipulating clay is used by Teresa Salgado in her new video on BANGLES (https://youtu.be/JTqQich7ifs).

27) Repeat this process on the remaining two edges.

28) Stand the triangle structure up. Determine if you want to make the “feet/base” wider to make it more stable. Add additional clay if so desired and blend into the previously applied snakes of clay. See picture on page 11.
29) Insert the brass “L” (see Step #1) into the top opening. The short “leg” of the “L” faces out.

30) Use the “leftover clay” that was retained in Step #25 to enclose the brass “L”, ensuring that the “L” faces out over the flat side of the triangle structure. Smooth the clay down to form a seal and a cap.

31) Place upright in a baking pan OR lay on polyfill or cornstarch; tent and bake for 45 minutes.

32) While the triangle structure is baking, condition your 2nd block of clay to use to form the Windmill Blade assembly. I tend to use white clay or grey clay for these, but any color will work.

33) Make a small snake of clay. Wrap around the Spring Coil/Cord End to form the center of the blade assembly (the axle).

34) Use one of the provided templates to form the blade design of your choice. You can make the blades flat, dimensional, angled; you have lots of options for the blade design. See the pictures on the last page for more ideas.

35) Form the blades around the axle piece. Ensure that they are adhered well, both front & back.
36) Make sure that the axle (the Spring Coil) is straight up & down to ensure that the blade turns smoothly.

37) Place on baking tile to prepare to bake with the Blade Cap.

38) Take a small amount of the clay used to create the triangle sides and form a ball. Push the top of the T-Pin into the ball. Press the clay to seal the pin in.
39) You can leave this a ball shape or make it into more of a cone shape (and add texture or other enhancements if you are so inclined).

40) Place the Blade Cap onto the “L” to impress a ring into the clay. If the Blade Cap doesn’t reach the “L”, use a wire cutter to shorten the pin as needed to allow the Blade Cap to reach the “L”. See the ring in the picture at bottom of previous page.

41) Place the Blade Cap on the baking tile with the Windmill Blade. Tent & bake for 45 minutes.

42) Once all of the individual pieces are cooled, place the Windmill Blade on to the brass “L” and place the Blade Cap to hold the Blade in place. Adjust the length of the T-Pin again if needed to ensure that the Blade Cap reaches the Brass “L”.

43) Remove the Blade Cap, apply some super glue to the impressed ring; replace the Blade Cap on the Brass “L” and hold in place until the glue sets, gluing the Blade Cap on to hold the Windmill Blade in place.

42) Stand the windmill upright and allow the glue to dry for another 1/2 hour or so. Then give the blade a spin and enjoy your new windmill!

Sources of materials:
Beads & Blends kit is available @ https://tinypandora.com
Brass Tube is available from many outlets; I use K&S Precision Metals # 8126 that I purchase @ my local Ace Hardware Store. There are three tubes in each package
Jewelry Spring Finding/Cord End is available at most any location that sells jewelry supplies. I purchased the Bead Landing brand at Michaels.
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

This basic design can be modified in many different ways to make various Windmills. You can vary the height, change up the surface decoration, add HotFix decorations, create borders for the edges using a mold (I used Lisa Pavelka’s Simple Elegance Border Mold to create the edging on the purple Windmill) (see picture on next page).

Play & Have fun!
~ Anita Buckowing
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