

Marilyn MacDonald

Populating My Little World

Last March, as my 50th birthday loomed, I was suffering from *ennui* and casting about for a new interest.

As I perused the Lee Valley catalogue, I came across a 30-colour starter kit of polymer clay (Sculpey III®). Polymer clay is fired in a home oven at just 275° and requires no special equipment. I was intrigued. I ordered the starter pack, some flesh-coloured clay (Super Sculpey®), and a book by Maureen Carlson called *How to Make Clay Characters*.

The book is fantastic! Carlson outlines—step-by-step—the techniques to create clay people. Beginning with simple figures, she progresses



to more complex creations and even shows how to make the accessories that personalize and bring the figures to life. After I finished “making” my way through the book, I was ready to start on my own victims. I have now “sculpeyed” many of my friends and family and everyone seems to love seeing themselves in clay. It’s magical to see the little figures emerge. Each one surprises even me.

When my nephew Bryan and his fiancée Shelby married on Valentine’s Day in the Dominican Republic, I made the topper for their wedding cake.



It was a big hit and will be a wedding keepsake for them in years to come.

I encourage anyone who enjoyed Play-Doh® as much as their children to give this hobby a try! ▲

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