

DECO Clay Craft was designated as a new genre in the handicraft industry in 1981. Born of Kazuko Miyai's admiration of Western pottery, which is made with stone powder clay, painted with gesso at the base, painted with a pale color and finished with a coat of varnish, she embarked on a journey of creating a clay which would dry in 24 hours and eliminate the baking process. Even now, she can remember being impressed by the hard and glossy finish of the Western pottery and dreaming of creating an air-dry clay which would make it much easier for the average craft-loving person to enjoy and participate in this wonderful artistry.

In 1997, DECO original soft clay was introduced to the clay-crafting field. This ultra-lightweight clay is extremely easy to work with and enables crafters to handle and to make use of modeling techniques taught by DECO, resulting in high-quality works of art. The curriculum was revised again in 2006, reflecting on the changes and progress made in the past 25 years. The clay brand has also been renamed to CLAYCRAFT by DECO Soft Clay.

In 2000, Kazuko's daughter, Yukiko Miyai, opened a new DECO studio in Hawaii, USA. Yukiko has made great strides in advancing the technology and the incredible wide range of stylish designs is impressive. Since the founding of DECO, Kazuko Miyai has authored more than 20 books on clay craft and has appeared twice on TV Asahi's "Tetsuko's Room". In addition, Yukiko Miyai has authored many books on clay-craft and has appeared twice on the Martha Stewart Show in New York, USA. All of this has resulted in interest in the craft around the world. There is now participation in the USA, Russia and Europe, a total of five countries. The number of certified instructors is 3,000 in Japan, 700 in other countries, and the number of members is over 17,000.

Extensive research on clay has brought a lot more interest and participation in clay crafting. DECO is proud to be the best in the world for the quality and variety of our clay. It is extremely easy to handle and mold and can be enjoyed by anyone! It is our hope that many more craft-lovers will discover this exciting world of creating with DECO clay!

DECO Clay Craft Academy currently offers a variety of curricula in three courses: modeling, flowers, and personal-style gifts, and each course can be taken in certified instructors' classrooms. Details of classrooms and inquiries may be found on the Academic Homepage. www.decoclay.com

Membership Classes Available in these Locations



-
- Australia
 - Austria
 - Belarus
 - Canada
 - China
 - Cyprus
 - Czech Republic
 - Denmark
 - Finland
 - France
 - Germany
 - Hong Kong
 - Hungary
 - India
 - Indonesia
 - Ireland
 - Israel
 - Italy
 - Japan
 - Kazakhstan
 - Korea
 - Latvia
 - Lithuania
 - Malaysia
 - Moldova
 - Mongolia
 - Netherlands
 - New Zealand
 - Norway
 - Portugal
 - Russia
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Singapore
 - Spain
 - Switzerland
 - Taiwan
 - Thailand
 - Turkey
 - Ukraine
 - United Arab Emirates
 - United Kingdom
 - USA

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DECO Clay Craft Academy

5-2-6 Kiba, Koto-Ku

Tokyo 135-0042 JAPAN

TEL: (+81)3-3630-2082

www.decoclay.co.jp

www.decoclay.com



ON THE COVER

The cover photo for this year is our inspiration for all things "botanical" produced, designed and arranged with attention to detail of each stem, flower, leaf, and a few playful butterflies. Various shapes of embroidery frames are stretched with cloth for a natural look while adding a touch of color.



Kazuko Miyai

DECO Clay Craft Academy, Founder

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to you all for your support this past year.

What does the New Year hold for us? Last year, the new era in Japan "Ryowa" began, and I started to wonder what this new era will bring. DECO was founded in the Showa era and had a history in both the Heisei and Ryowa eras, during which we all nurtured the DECO community. This time is special to me, and I have been crafting pieces I hold dear from the era. I have always enjoyed sharing the fun of creating with clay and hearing someone say, "I didn't know I could make these beautiful things"!

Last year, I was able to visit many exhibitions held by DECO instructors all over Japan. I saw such wonderful works created with careful preparation, and this gave me such inspiration. It is such an honor to see that, after many years of crafting together with the DECO community, the enthusiasm for our craft is as vibrant as ever. It never ceases to amaze me when I see all the outstanding work being created in so many places around the world!

This year, we held the DECO Creators Contest, in which all members were invited to participate and share their works. Although the theme was set, it was amazing to see all the creativity and personal inspiration each member demonstrated in their work. Thank you all for your participation.

I was moved by the beauty displayed in each instructor's works in the Flower Course Curriculum 4. It is great to see how each piece has so many unique personal touches incorporated by the hands that made them. It is such a joy to see these projects being shared in classrooms in Japan and around the world.

On a personal note, my husband passed away at the beginning of the new Ryowa era. We spent half a century together, and my journey with DECO would not have been possible without his and my family's support. He quietly watched from a distance and was a kind and understanding person to the end. I find this difficult to write, but I will continue to do my best with DECO as I continue on this journey.

We will soon begin preparations for our 40th anniversary, an important milestone for our company. I look with much anticipation to the future as we move forward with DECO as one!

Thank you again for your hard work this year and for the years to come!





Yukiko Miyai

DECO Clay Craft Academy, Principal

DECO has been active in Japan and abroad for almost forty years. Seventeen years ago, with the full support of DECO headquarters, I opened a studio in Honolulu, Hawaii, to introduce the craft to a wider audience. We were well received from the onset, and have seen our craft appreciated and loved by many. There is so much natural beauty everywhere and the natural environment of Hawaii inspired many of the works you see in our projects.

My mother, Kazuko, started DECO with the desire to make clay crafting accessible to everyone, and it is still our goal today. Over the years, we have implemented many product advancements that provide the ability to create the most realistic and enjoyable works.

Twenty-three years ago, the DECO curriculum "gift department," which is now the current Flower Course, began. Kazuko was working on a new material, which is our Soft Clay. With this new material, she worked on creating new techniques, which received a great response from the craft world in Japan. Constant improvements in technology and materials have enabled us to make great advances up to the present time.

This year, lessons in Flower Course 4 and new seasonal projects were held in Japan and overseas, including Hawaii and the U.S. mainland, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Moscow, and Taipei. It is such a joy to move DECO forward together with all of you! This year we will introduce a new Flower Course Curriculum to showcase these skills and material advancements. This

curriculum is in parallel with the traditional Flower Course curricula 1 and 2, and is based on the concept of "a style that naturally expresses beauty with clay." In May of 2020, we are preparing a course with a variety of flowers and a new DECO, a deep DECO feel.

We have also begun preparations for the 40th DECO anniversary event to be held in 2021 and will announce the details in regular updates this year. I'm very excited about this milestone for DECO!

As a DECO overseas branch, the Honolulu office will continue as an important location for production activities. However, we have decided to vacate our present class space in Honolulu to place more emphasis on DECO's activities in Japan and overseas classes, such as Asia, Russia, USA and Europe. We will continue to offer classes in Hawaii at various locations and will maintain an office with our usual duties. The classroom studio will officially close at the end of December 2019.

Thank you to all who have attended and supported our Hawaii studio, and to everyone worldwide for your involvement and support in 2019!

This year in May, my father passed away after a long battle with cancer, he was great man with a kind soul and always supportive of my dreams. I appreciate all your thoughts and prayers.

I look forward to 2020 and continuing our journey with our DECO community. Thank you so very much!





DECO Japan Head Office

We wish you all a very happy New Year!

Thank you very much for your kindness and support during the past year. We look forward to a creative and productive New Year.

DECO Clay Craft Academy



News from DECO

NEWLY ESTABLISHED BOTANICAL COURSE

This new Botanical Course curriculum is an exciting and fresh addition to the currently established Flower Course.

The Botanical Course is designed to express and recreate the natural elements of each delicate floral detail with great attention and emphasis being placed on arranging in the most realistic and natural form.

This course is suited for all those entering into the world of clay crafting and accompanies the current Flower Course Curriculum 1 and 2. After completing each project and passing certification procedures, students will be able to obtain the DECO Flower Course Instructor Certification. No additional registration fee is required for the current Flower Course and Tropical Course students. In addition, there is no need to apply for a certification or teacher application for current Flower Course instructors.

Beginning in May 2020, the headquarters, Osaka, Kyushu, Nagoya and Sendai will begin offering lessons in this new curriculum. Details of lessons to be taught in all locations will be announced this March.



<sample images>

DECO 40TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

As a new genre in the handicraft field, Kazuko Miyai opened a classroom in Tokyo in 1981, and in 2021 the DECO Clay Craft Academy celebrates its 40th anniversary. DECO began with one-on-one in-person workshops and has maintained this structure for nearly 40 years. To commemorate the 40th anniversary the DECO headquarters is preparing for an exhibition in Tokyo. Details will be announced in the very near future.

SPRING SEASONAL LESSONS IN 2020

Spring season lessons by the DECO headquarters instructors will be held this year. This spring we will be offering a fresh new project consisting of Poppies, Star Besseram (Ornithogalum) arrangements. This year we will be creating two limited-edition colors of our CLAYCRAFT by DECO Soft Clay colors. These new colors will be released in conjunction with the 2020 Spring Season lessons. Spring lessons are open for all Flower Course instructors.

<Contents of project> Sculpting and Arranging of Poppy and Star Besseram
<Eligibility> Flower Course Instructors
<Japan Schedule> Tokyo Headquarters February 26th, 27th and 28th
Osaka, March 4th and 5th
Kyushu March 6th
Sendai March 10th
Nagoya, March 3



<Sample image>

DECO CLAY CRAFT ACADEMY CURRICULUM UPDATES AND REVISIONS

DECO Clay curriculum is expressed with the characteristics and style of each course while advancing according to new improvements in techniques and materials.

Our clay sculpting techniques have been continuously developing over the years during our nearly 40 years in the industry. We are always looking to advance this craft to the next level and to keep up with the styling trends of the current era. The content of the DECO curriculum will be updated to express our goal of creating the most realistic and enjoyable projects. The DECO Clay Craft Academy is committed to researching and developing technology to ensure that each curriculum will be the highest level possible. This year, DECO Japan headquarters instructors will hold skills lessons such as dahlia, pincushion, glaze, and hydrangea. More information will be announced very soon.



<Sample images>

2020 INSTRUCTOR CONFERENCE (JAPAN ONLY)

DECO Clay Craft Academy instructor seminar is scheduled for March of 2020 in Tokyo. We look forward to this time to gather together. The details are as follows.

- <Date and time> March 17, 2020
Hours 11:30 reception, 12:00 banquet ~ 2 hours
- <Location> Restaurant Luke with Sky Lounge
47th floor, St. Luke's Garden, 8-1 Akashicho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0044, Japan
- <Application> Apply by phone or fax to the headquarters by January 31, 2020.



REQUEST FOR MEMBER INFORMATION UPDATE

Each year the DECO newsletter is available to all DECO members (instructors and students) to inform of current and past events and news. If your contact information, website listings, name changes or other information needs updating, please contact us.

MAILING ADDRESS:

758 Kapahulu Avenue STE 100 #1116, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

TEL: (+1) 808-735-7800 / EMAIL: info@decoclay.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

NEWS OF OUR ACTIVITIES ARE UPDATED ON DECO FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS. CHECK IT OUT!



DECOClayCraftAcademy

#DECOClayCraftAcademy #ClayCraftByDECO



@decoclaycraft @decoclay
@claycraftbydeco



FLOWER COURSE 4 “STEM ARRANGEMENTS”

The first arrangement of Flower Course 4 “Stem Arrangements” has been completed and is now being offered in certified DECO classrooms. Each completed piece was very delicate and full of individuality. A few photos of these finished arrangements are shown below.

Currently, the second part of this series “Natural Bouquet” is being taught at the DECO headquarters. Flower Courses 4 DECO headquarters lessons will be wrapping up in January, and bouquet arrangement lessons are scheduled for April.



2019 Master Instructors

Master Instructors

Chisumi Tanabe
Yoshimi Tsukada
Miki Baba
Maki Ikuno
Michiko Ibusuki
Yuka Kimura
Sachiko Kuramoto
Yoriko Kato

(in random order)

Referring Master Instructor

Kayoko Ebisawa
Yuri Otsubo
Yuko Nakanowatari
Sachiko Niho
Takako Hikita
Takako Hikita
Takako Hikita
Michiko Miyakawa

These eight instructors have completed all course curricula for the DECO Clay Craft Academy and passed all required examinations. We graciously welcome these new Master Instructors to this select group who have shown exemplary dedication and remarkable skills in DECO Clay Crafting. Congratulations and best wishes for all your future endeavors!



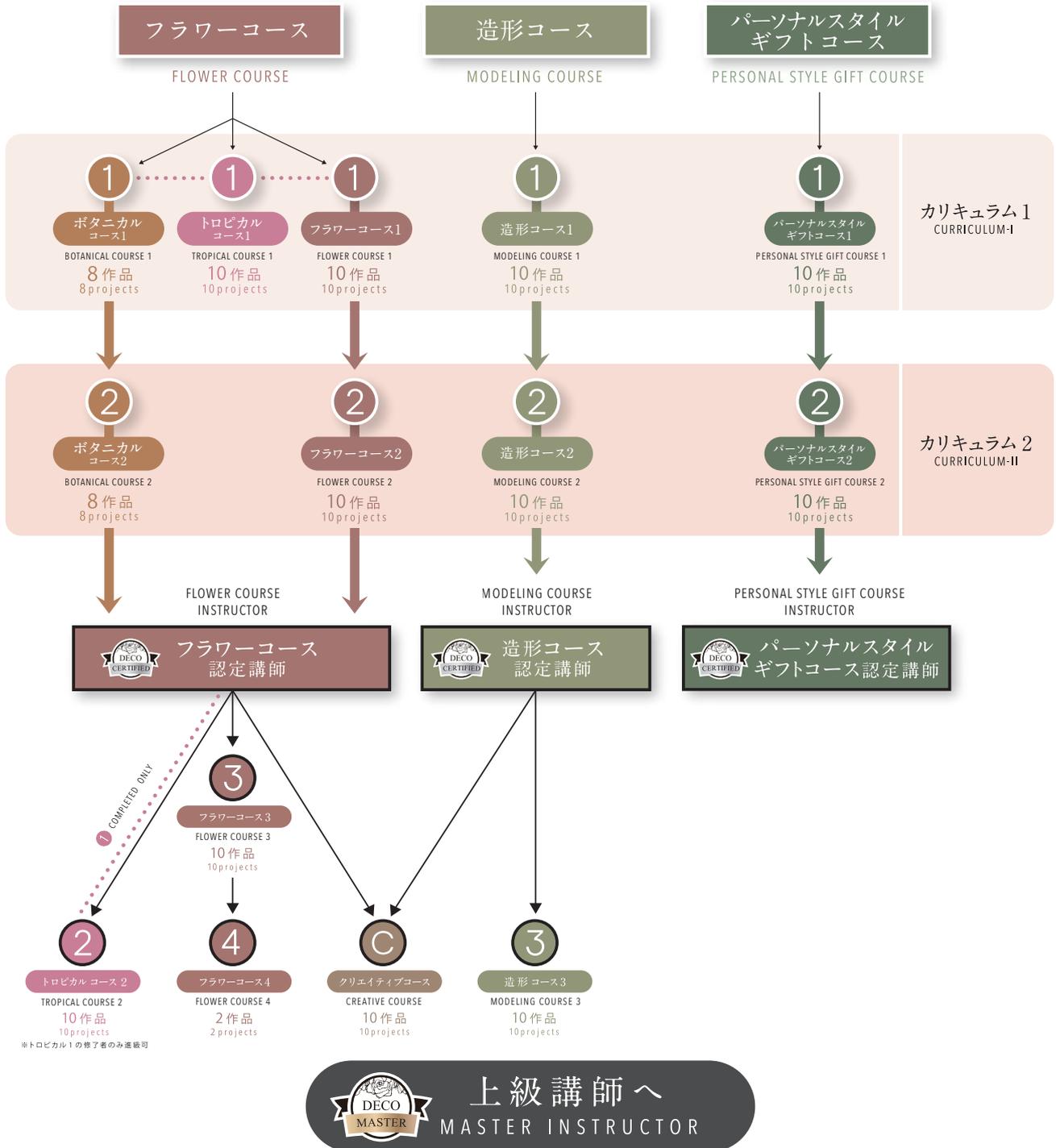
Requirements of a DECO Academy Master Instructor

- Have completed the Modeling, Flower, Tropical and Personal Style Gift Courses and applied for the completion of each curriculum.
- Have attended courses for newly created curriculum and seasonal lessons as well as trained other instructors on these lessons.
- Received a recommendation from their supervising instructor and successfully passed the Master Instructor examination.

We Are DECO



Membership Flow Chart



New Products



We are excited to introduce these new silicone molds which allow you to add delicate textures on both sides of petals and leaves for beautiful results.



Anemone
9cm x 6cm



Amaryllis
8.5cm x 5cm



Ranunculus
4cm x 4cm



Lemon Leaf
9.5cm x 5.5cm



Eucalyptus
5.5cm x 6cm



Begonia
8.5cm x 6cm



Berry
4cm x 3.5cm



Berry Leaf
6.5cm x 3.5cm

Official Distributors

JAPAN

DECO Clay Craft Academy
5-2-6 Kiba, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0042
Ph. +81 3-3630-2082
www.decoclay.co.jp

USA

DECO Clay Craft Academy
758 Kapahulu Avenue, STE 100 #1116,
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Ph. +1 808-735-7800
www.decoclay.com

RUSSIA

4 Craft
119048 Moscow, Usacheva, 29-2-86
Ph. +7 499 24-535-24
www.4craft.ru

TAIWAN

柏蒂格有限公司
5F, NO.27 SEC3, PA The Road
Taipei, Taiwan
Ph. +886 22578-5612

EUROPE

MyHobbyShop.eu
Meza 4, Adazu pagasts, LV2164, Latvia
Ph. +371 22304467
www.myhobbyshop.eu

HONG KONG

Bella Arte Clay Craft
Kim Tak Building 5B Nathan Rd 328-342
Jordan Kowloon, Hong Kong
Ph. +852 98-572-879
www.bellaartecraft.com

diy embroidery



【Embroidery Brooch】

Prepare the following

- CLAYCRAFT BY DECO Soft Clay
- Brooch base
- Crafters Glue
- Texture brush
- Needle tools



1



Mix your desired color for base and embroidery thread.
The size of the base clay is about 3.5cm.

2



Put clay to the base and spread from the middle.

3



Make texture with texture brush.

4



Inscribe a letter of your choice to the base with needle tool.

5



Make thin rope using clay for the thread.

6



Place clay thread on inscription and push with the needle tool. This will serve as the backstitch of the embroidery.

7



Finish placing the letter.

8



Place 1-1.5mm clay balls to the letter to replicate a French knot stitch.

9



Make thin ropes for flower stem and place it with the needle tool.

10



Make leaves. Place a teardrop shape to both sides of the stem. Use the needle tool to draw leaf veins. Draw a rosebud with the needle tool.

11



Make a 5mm rose and place it on the center of the letter with Crafters Glue.

12

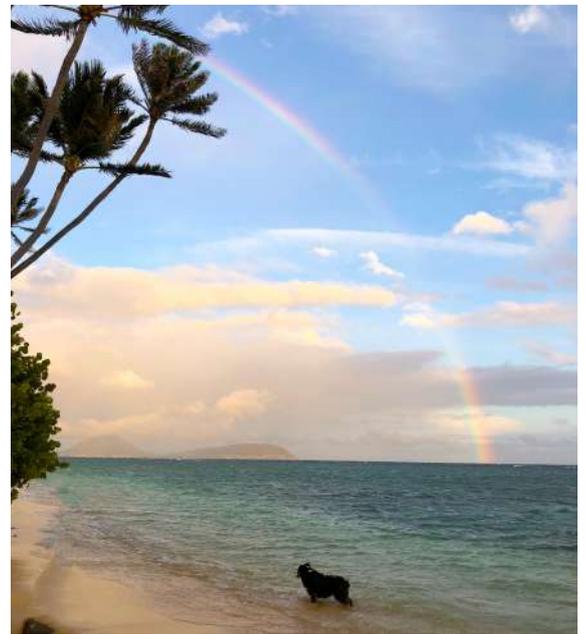


Paint the frame in the color of your choice.

13



The options are limitless...



DECO Hawaii

Another year of creativity has come to a close, gone in a flash! We are elated with the continued support and enthusiasm for the DECO craft, here and abroad, and are looking forward to the coming year with great enthusiasm, and a renewed drive of increasing our presence and workshops in many new locations.

We realize that Hawaii is a very remote location and can be difficult to reach; therefore, we plan to work on being more accessible by coming to you. Our classes will continue here in a more remote arrangement while offering classes in various locations around Hawaii. To make this possible, the class space that we currently occupy will be vacated. This decision was made so that we can focus more intently on DECO's reach by offering more workshops around Hawaii, Japan and overseas.

We have been representing the DECO Clay Craft Academy in Hawaii, with the full support of the DECO headquarters in Japan, for nearly twenty years. This has been possible only because of the amazing support

of so many people. We are more than ever committed to making our craft accessible to all who wish to learn. Hawaii's natural environment is a huge inspiration and is present in much of the DECO curriculum. We are so grateful for this experience and look forward to continuing being amazed by the wonders of Hawaii. All Hawaii office responsibilities will remain in place and will continue as the DECO overseas branch. We are working on expanding our product availability and shipping to meet market demands and expectations.

With the 40th anniversary of the DECO Clay Craft Academy quickly approaching, we have already begun planning our celebration of this milestone in DECO history. Preparing for this event will be a team effort, and we could not be more excited about this opportunity. News and details about the event and all included activities will be announced in the near future. It will be an honor to have you all join us!





DECO Russia

We would like to welcome you to the Russian representative office of DECO Academy. For this issue, we are including a photo of the team in our studio. This is our home where we joyfully receive our friends, students, instructors, and those who come to get acquainted with DECO.

In this photo, you see employees of the Moscow office: Evgenia Kiefa, Anna Kondratieva, Alesya Kozlovskaya, and the lead instructors of the Russian representative office of the DECO: Olga Petrova, Natalya Sabik and Tatyana Vertkina. They are the teachers who are the first in Russia to study new projects of the DECO Academy and carefully pass on the knowledge to our students. This year, instructor Maria Sotnikova began teaching at our studio. Unfortunately, she is not in the above photo, but this newsletter contains an article about Maria. Please read her story on page 18.

With this article, we summarize the outgoing 2019 results. What was it like for us? After a bright and eventful 2018, when we were actively preparing for the exhibition and the 10th anniversary celebration of DECO in Russia, we expect 2020 to be a calmer year with busy, steady work. Of course, we had a great response from the exhibition last year, which was held at the Central House of Artists, and had many new students come for trial lessons. There were also a lot of calls from companies with requests for off-site workshops.

More and more often, people come to us with orders and also corporate gifts. For instance, at the beginning of the year, we received

an interesting and urgent order for the production of boutonnieres for a company's employees by March 8. We are always open to new proposals and interesting orders!

This summer we launched a new project: DECO Hen Party! Ladies attended a special workshop for making jewelry for bridesmaids. We hope to make these get-togethers available to others who wish to celebrate a birthday or hold a small, unique corporate party. Collective creativity unites people, and the collective work of our students has repeatedly confirmed this.

This year we especially want to honor our team of students who were inspired by our instructor, Natasha Savik, for joint work. They sculpted very beautiful works for the First International DECO Creators Contest. Their bouquets were creative, bright, and interesting! The bouquet in blue tones won the prize among composite works, and our favorite is the bouquet in colors of red and pomegranate. The list of winners of the contest includes many students who are graduates of our studio, and we are so proud of them! This contest brought together not only students and instructors, but it also united both cities and countries! We thank the Academy's main office for this opportunity to take part in the contest and meet new masters from other countries. We are also grateful to all students and instructors from Russia who accepted the challenge and submitted their works. Thank you!



DECO INSTRUCTOR REPORTS

It is a true pleasure to share these stories
from DECO instructors around the world.



Master Instructor, Takako Mogari • Yamaguchi, Japan



First of all, I would like to thank my teachers Kazuko Miyai, Yukiko Miyai and the DECO head office for giving me this opportunity. My journey with DECO began 27 years ago when I saw my mother's clay works and wanted to try to make one. I immediately joined DECO and started working with white stone powder clay, and vividly remember how much fun it was. I weaved several baskets of different sizes and made many strawberries, and my first work is still on display in a living room interior. After that, I graduated from elementary school, secondary school and high school, and then acquired my instructor qualification. I was busy working as a civil servant every day, and the hours I was able to spend time working with clay gave me great pleasure and was also therapeutic.

I attended the headquarters lesson for the first time when an intensive lesson of a new curriculum was held in Fukuoka. I remember having fun and staring at the magical hands of Dr. Miyai. I was introduced to Instructor Hanako Yamaoka, a senior lecturer, and have been teaching since we first met 22 years ago. I completed all the courses up to Curriculum III and qualified as a Master Instructor in 2006. In Miyai's Sensei eyes, there was no sense of tension when creating a piece. I struggled a bit at first and was worried that I wouldn't catch on. The challenge was to sculpt clay into hands and feet of adults and children. I practiced very hard, and somehow, in the end, it came out beautifully.

After that, I went back to work after raising my child. Although I was away from the classes in the head office, I attended Yamaoka Sensei's lessons of Creative and Tropical Courses. I was very busy with my job at this time but had never lost my desire of becoming a DECO instructor, sharing this technology with many people. After I retired from my job, I began my new life as a DECO instructor. I resumed taking lessons at the headquarters and holding exhibitions. I took on one challenge after another, such as children's summer vacation workshops and work sales events. Even if you are busy after retiring, your life can be filled with fun!

Miyai Sensei gave us a direct message: "You have the skills, teach everyone around you, with no regrets." I love these words. I always give 100% when teaching and am generous when sharing what I have learned. I am so grateful to have met this wonderful, constantly evolving DECO community. I will continue to take pride in being a member of the DECO Clay Craft Academy. Thank you very much!



Master Instructor, Miyako Uchino • Tokyo, Japan



I was first introduced to DECO more than 15 years ago when I was shopping in a department store. I spied a lovely basket made of clay with a handkerchief inside. The basket was so cute that I picked it up. Unfortunately, this basket was not for sale. I discovered that this little basket was made at the DECO headquarters and that I could take lessons to learn this craft.

I began lessons with Professor Ozaki, who was teaching at Shiomi, and he taught me a lot. Thank you, Professor Ozaki! Ten years ago, Ozaki Sensei opened her classroom. When I started teaching, I did not have many students, but with some effort and help from friends, I began to receive a lot of response.

I decided to live with my aunt, who needed care due to her dementia. As her dementia progressed, I could forget the painful reality of her illness by focusing on working with clay. My life was sometimes lonely, but the clay crafting and the warm support of my students helped me.

I believe there is no other world as wonderful as the world of clay crafting!
Thank you all!



Master Instructor, Maki Ikuno • Osaka, Japan



I first became aware of DECO 17 years ago by chance when I picked up “Clay Flower – Flower Play” by Kazuko Miyai at a library. I still clearly remember how shocked I was when I saw how delicate and colorful works of art were made out of clay. It was very different from how I imagined a clay to be. I immediately went to the bookstore to purchase a book. In it, I found my instructor, Sachiko Niho’s class information. Everything she made was brilliant and filled with beauty. Her color sense and technique changed expressions with each stroke. Nothing makes me happier than learning from a teacher that is always cheerful, kind and loving.

I began a friendship with instructor Sachiko Niho, whose works are all elegant and beautiful. It is so rewarding to receive guidance from a teacher who is always cheerful, kind, and loving.

One day I received a letter that read, "To a lecturer at Higashi-Osaka Citizen Course". The teacher encouraged me to join in as an instructor, but I was not confident that I could do it. She said she would do her best to support me. Teaching 20 beginners who had never touched clay was a great learning experience! After that, I began teaching DECO at home to anyone who wanted to continue the lessons. Up to the present time, we have held two-class exhibitions at the Higashi-Osaka Citizen Art Center and many people have viewed it.

All of my students are enthusiastic and love clay, and every class is always full of lively laughter. The projects of Spring, Christmas, and New Year's seasonal lessons are also incorporated into our teaching, and it is fun for everyone. These projects are very important and invaluable to me as a teacher.

DECO clay was a source of comfort to me and helped to calm my anxiety when my father passed away six years ago. Occasions such as my son's wedding, the birth of my grandchild, and anytime I want to share happiness, I present my flowers. During the last few years, I have continued with my lessons while spending a lot of time with my mother, who lives alone. It took me a long time to complete the curriculum projects due to this, but I was filled with joy and excitement all the while.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Kazuko and Yukiko, and all the teachers at the DECO headquarters.



Instructor, Junko Karimata • Okinawa, Japan



“ DECO Clay Craft circle is spreading over the blue sea and sky island ”! In Okinawa, where I live, I have become so interested in the local customs and traditions and try to incorporate these in my lessons and this island community.

That said, I was born in Tokyo and raised in Shitamachi. I studied and enjoyed DECO Clay Craft in Tokyo, but I moved to Okinawa nine years ago because it is where my husband was from. At first, I was very worried because I had no friends here and no relatives, and I had three children and a fourth child on the way. However, everyone in the area welcomed me warmly as a “bride from the inland,” and now I live in the warmth with a lot of peace of mind. Also, after a while, I tried to work to get used to Okinawa more, but I had a different child-rearing environment than when I lived in Tokyo. I thought about it and started a DECO Clay Craft class.

Initially, DECO Clay Craft was almost unknown in Okinawa, I tried various things, such as holding workshops, posting in newspaper announcements. Now DECO is quite well known and not the hard fight I first imagined. First of all, I held hands-on workshops at a local public hall to meet the local people. Those who were interested in this craft gathered to experience making roses, and they were able to experience the fun of making clay works while enjoying each other's company. A number of people overheard the laughter from our classroom, and gradually, the number of students increased. Since students who like making things are gathering, it has become a place to show various works and friendship in addition to clay works. There was a connection with the person in charge of the culture classes, which led to the opening of regular classes here. Even in the classroom, students gather together for events and meals, and they also make flowers bloom everywhere. Eight years have passed since the opening of the first workshop, and now, even more, new members are interested in attending classes.

I would like to thank Nobuko Kiguchi, an amazing instructor in Saitama. It is often difficult to take part in the headquarters lesson since Okinawa is very far away. We will always be happy to share our experiences and skills, such as making new works from the headquarter workshops and courses that you have not completed yet. I like to share the DECO Clay Crafts with everyone in Okinawa. We are always excited when Kiguchi Sensei comes to Okinawa, and we are always connected to the circle of DECO Clay Craft.

My DECO Clay Craft life in Okinawa is full of support and smiles from teachers, local people, and everyone who learns. I spend a lot of fun and gentle time every day here in Okinawa with DECO Clay Crafts and the warm hearts of its people.



Instructor, Daria Batueva • Ekaterinburg, Russia



I fell in love when I first saw pictures on the Internet of the most beautiful, hand-crafted flowers I had ever seen. Sometime later, my family and I moved to Moscow. There was a DECO studio there, and I gave myself a present on my birthday: a trial lesson at Olga Petrova's DECO studio. I quickly finished the course and continued my studies.

Clay modeling has become my favorite hobby. It provides me with relaxation, self-expression, and an escape from every day worries, and Sunday became my official creative day. I spent this day at the studio, where I enthusiastically worked on term projects and other pieces. Soon we returned to Yekaterinburg, where I graduated from the C2 Course and received my instructor's degree. My hobby gradually became my main job as I welcomed more and more students and had large orders and projects. Now, this is my dream job!

Having a background as an architect and designer helps me in my work as I need to create compositions, decorative items that fit into interior design. I am very attracted to the concept of preserving the image of a living flower in clay, illustrating the beauty and grace of the flower. By sharing what I have learned, I continually am studying new courses and projects. I am so gratified when I see the students' results and their sincere pleasure when working on their pieces.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to the Miyai family for sharing this wonderful craft with the world. I also thank our community, Russian teachers, my husband, family, and friends for their support, and my customers and partners for their interesting orders and bold ideas. I am so happy to be a part of the DECO family and being able to share my creativity while doing what I love!



Instructor, Maria Sotonikova • Moscow, Russia



I discovered DECO claycraft at the end of 2012. It seemed that the world was in chaos at that time, but my personal life blossomed with beautiful flowers I learned to create with polymer clay.

I was making a gardenia at my first master class at Olga Petrova's school and I remember the pleasant, happy feeling I was experiencing as I was working with the clay. There was something special about the lightweight softness of the clay and at the same time I noticed a pleasant aroma.

At first it was just a hobby! At the time I worked in Moscow in a Dutch logistics company. I was in a leadership position, but when I was in the DECO studio I felt like a schoolgirl. I would never have imagined that clay modeling would become my main and favorite work, and that I would eventually participate in different markets and teach the craft to my own students.

I quickly found my niche: I made musical carousels in my unique style. I received recognition on the Internet and was invited to appear on two television programs with my handmade carousels and birdhouses.

My personal favorite study is the Personal Style Gift Course, concentrating on sweets and food, which produce excellent pieces. With them I advanced to the international level, designing museums and attractions in different countries. I teach my students not only the Personal Style Gift Course, but also flower courses and modeling.

I am very grateful to Yukiko and Kazuko Miyai and Olga Petrova for sharing their experience, ideas and inspiration, and enjoy sharing my knowledge with my own students, bringing the beauty of DECO polymer clay crafting to the world.

One of my favorite phrases is "Love what you do and do what you love and you do not have to work a single day in your life". This truly describes my life and I wish the same for each of you!



Instructor, Hsiu-Fen Hung • Hsinchu, Taiwan



I have loved creating and art since I was a student, and since 1996 I have been working in children's art classes.

In 2003, I happened to see a Japanese DECO Clay Craft Academy modeling work while shopping. I was surprised that this clay's work was so beautiful, and I felt it was my favorite color and style. I immediately started learning DECO.

As a beginner, I had very little skills, but my teacher, Anmi Wang, taught me everything I needed to know. Thank you very much for your kindness and for sharing this art with me.

The DECO Modeling Course is very involved, and all the students are sculpting such amazing pieces. The work I create while opening myself completely exceeds my original vision.

I learned the necessary techniques to become a modeling instructor and received my Instructor Certification. I then opened a DECO Clay classroom and started sharing this knowledge with everyone. After the classroom opened, I started teaching at schools, companies, and various communities. To improve my skills, I studied the Personal Style Gift Courses and Flower Courses and obtained my Instructor Certification in these courses. Now, I am studying Flower Course 4 under the guidance of Tsuji Sensei at the DECO Taiwan branch.

I sincerely want to thank all of the instructors who have taught me this wonderful art of clay crafting!

Always DECO



2019 DECO Creators Contest

The first ever official DECO Creators Contest was held in 2019. We are delighted with the response and number of applications received from all over Japan and overseas.
Thank you very much for your participation.



クレイという共通のツールで魅力ある個性豊かな力作が
このように集まったことさ とても嬉しく思っております。
参加者 皆様に感謝致します。

高井 和子

Modeling Course "Weaving"

Instructor

Grand Prize



Asako Tsuge

Group

Grand Prize



Noriko Arai & Satoko Onishi

Instructor

Runner-Up



Kazuko Nagashima

Runner-Up



Kazuo Nagashima

Runner-Up



Megumi Horiuchi

Flower Course "Hand-Tied Bouquet"

Instructor



Yulia Shepeleva



Atsuko Matsuura



Hiroko Okuno

Group



Yuko Nakanowatari, Takako Ito,
Sachika Sato, Hiroko Mitsuno, Keiko Kawaguchi,
Hiroko Takahashi, Junko Honda, Harumi Sakuma



Natalia Savik, Alexandra Evstyukhina,
Zoya Chaplina, Natalia Sorokina,
Marina Berezhnaya, Nadezhda Kozhuh,
Alena Fedorova, Evgeniya Gusakova,
Olga Nuzhdina, Yulia Pikalo

Member



Zoya Chaplina



Maki Ide



Atsuko Kiyama

PSG Course "Love Cake"

Instructor



Olga Khan



Yoshimi Sato



Gary Yoshimi & Jo Ann Chang

Group

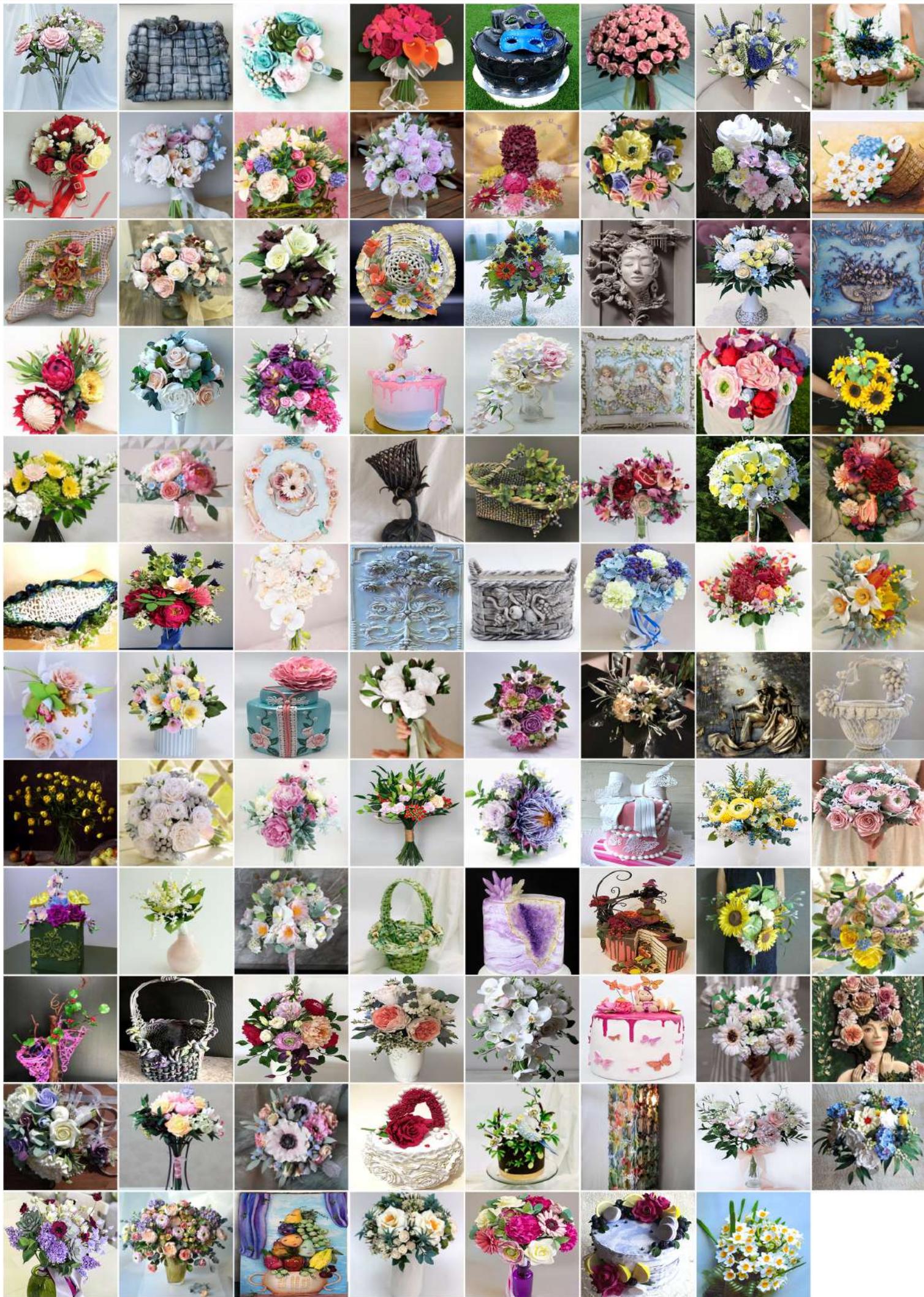
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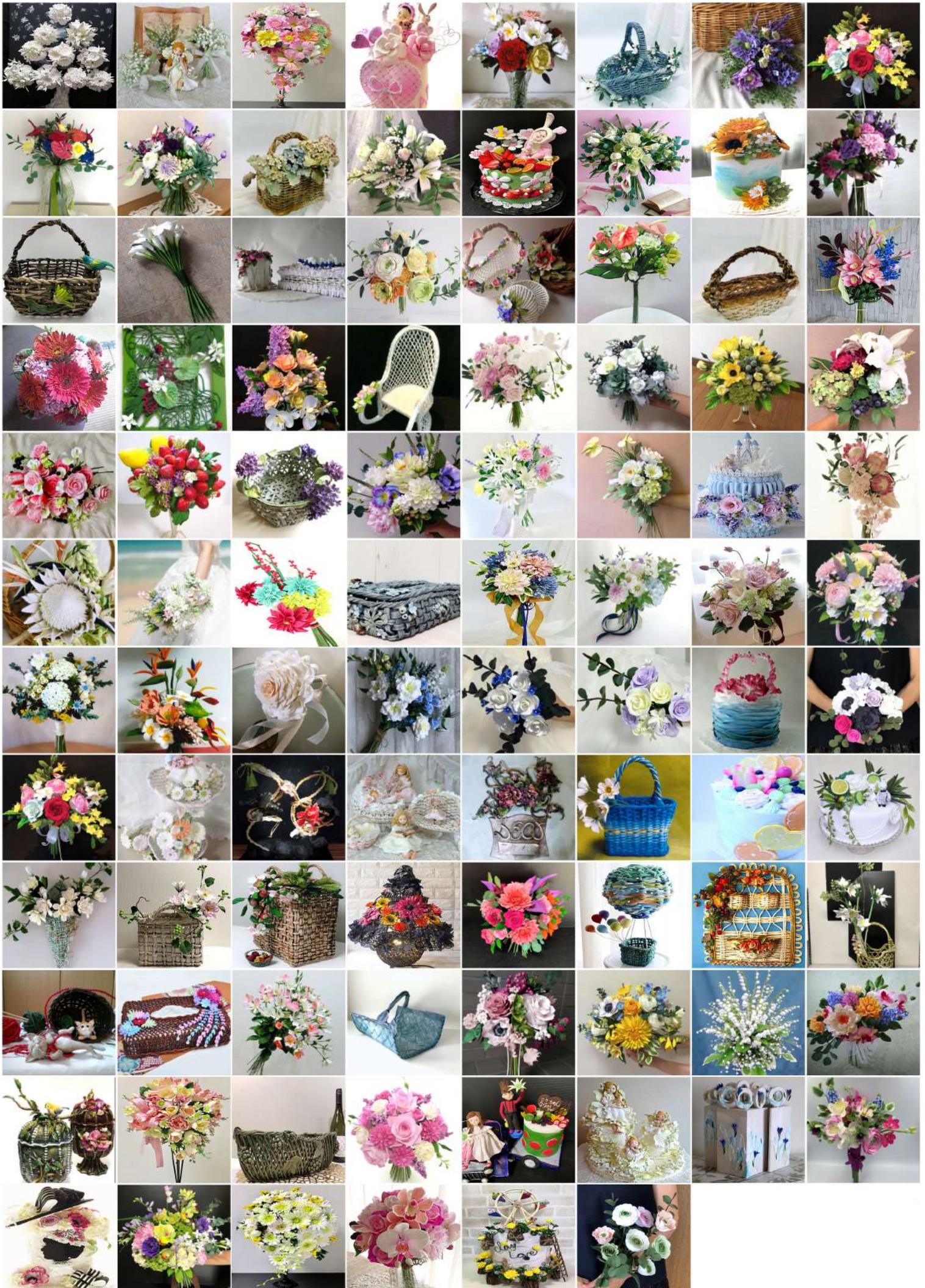


Marina Berezhnaya



Chieko Sato







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Tokyo 135-0042 JAPAN

TEL: 03-3630-2082 FAX: 03-3630-2024

URL: www.decoclay.co.jp
www.decoclay.com

JAPAN

5-2-6 Kiba, Koto-Ku
Tokyo 135-0042 JAPAN
TEL: (+81)3-3630-2082
www.decoclay.co.jp

USA

758 Kapahulu Avenue, Ste 100 #1116
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816 USA
TEL: (+1)808-735-7800
www.decoclay.com

RUSSIA

Usacheva 29-2-86
Moscow, Russia 119048
TEL: (+7)499-245-3524
www.decoclay.ru

