

SUBMISSION & CONTRIBUTOR GUIDELINES—

The Polymer Studio magazine

The following information is intended as a guide for the submission of materials to be considered for publication in The Polymer Studio magazine.

—Feature Articles

These would be articles that explore, in-depth, creativity, design, special events/news, or other polymer clay related subject matter.

—Project Tutorials

These are tutorials geared towards the beginner to intermediate polymer clay crafts person. The tutorial should include a materials list, a brief introduction, step-by-step explanations, and, optionally, tips and/or suggested variations.

—Product Reviews

Testing and review of new products and tools or exploring new ways to use existing products. These articles should consider the average user or explain how an item could be used by different types of clayers. There needs to be cons as well as pros for using the tools or materials reviewed.

—Artist Profile

An interview written in a conversational, storytelling tone about one particularly accomplished artist. Submit an artist's name and link to their work for consideration. Authors here may have a personal or professional connection to the artist if they can write honestly and without overtly indulging personal sentiment.

—Mad Skills

Discuss and show the process and finished examples of a technique or best practices in various common and not so common techniques in polymer clay.

—Outside the Block

Inspirational discussion and images of unusual artwork, unusual artists, or artwork that is not polymer clay but is related or relatable.

—The Art of the Sale

Articles on selling, displaying, listing, marketing, or any business related subject that can help readers establish a business and sell their creations.

—In Good Company

Personal experience & reporting on events, retreats, and workshops, new guilds or organizations, or formal art programs.

—Inside the Artist's Studio

Part interview, part photo gallery, this article would require either a visit to an artist studio to photograph the space and conduct a one-on-one interview with the artist or the cooperation of the artist to take the photographs and complete questions sent by email.

—The Final Word

Personal style essay that speaks to experiences, community issues, inspiring stories or anything that might uplift or otherwise engage readers. This is an open category but the author's personal experience or connection to the subject matter should be apparent.

—Special Regular Articles

Propose the creation of a regular article on a specific type of subject of interest to polymer clay crafters.

Payment/Compensation

Contributors submitting original content will be compensated based on the complexity of the content, originality, and amount of content. Completely original content is generally paid in the range of \$25–\$50 per published page. Previously published content will be negotiated. Links to the contributors websites, promotion through our blog and newsletter, and other promotional perks are included as well as a comped print and digital copy of that issue. Payment is made 30–45 days after publication. We do not offer kill fees.

Copyright

We do usually ask for exclusive copyright of 1 year on text but not on photos unless other arrangements were made. We request all media worldwide rights for both text & photos following the exclusive copyright period with the right to republish it in both print and digital versions when involved in one of our online services, reprint of the issue, or a book related to the periodical. The contributor has the right to reprint or sell the article without limiting our rights to reprint as well. In some instances, where we must heavily re-write or edit a piece, we may ask for full copyright ownership of the text. This will be requested and printed in the contributor agreement.

We will not ask for exclusive photo rights unless it is work-for-hire from the start. A photographic release form will be sent to be signed and returned before article publication for any images not belonging to the contributor.

Submission Process

Article queries are required first

Queries save both you and us time and unnecessary work. Before spending time and energy writing an article with The Polymer Studio in mind, you can find out if your chosen subject is something we are presently looking for, increasing your chances of having an article accepted. Sometimes the core subject is of interest but not the approach in which case, the query gives us the chance to respond with alternate ideas to create an article that would fit the upcoming editorials goals.

What to include in a query

- Explanation of subject matter. Include a summary explanation of the content, proposed research sources (if applicable), and why you believe readers would be interested.
- Proposed images—include an attachment or link to image examples
- Your qualifications and/or interest in this particular subject.
- The query should be short and succinct and just list the bare bones.

If we invite you to submit an article based on a query, that is an invitation but not a guarantee of acceptance. Timely submission, writing quality, picture quality, and editorial considerations all play a part in what is eventually accepted. Keep in mind, we know most of our potential contributors are more adept at making art than writing or photographing and we are willing to work with you to get the material to the level we would like to see.

Queries of interest will be responded to within 3 months. It is not always possible to respond to queries so if after 3 months you have not heard from us, you should consider that particular query excluded from consideration. We do hope you'll continue to submit ideas regardless.

Submitting Images

We only accept clear, high quality images that show appropriate and sufficient lighting, proper color, and contrast as needed. All images must be in focus, have the appropriate depth of field and no part of the primary image should be underexposed or in shadow unless it is for obvious artistic intent.

For artwork backgrounds should be uncluttered and without heavy patterning or stark texture. Use neutral colors and, as a general rule, avoid white unless you are highly experienced with adjusting white balance appropriately. Blacks, grays, low saturation color, and earth tones do well for backgrounds. If you are not an experienced photographer with proper equipment we strongly suggest you employ a professional.

We encourage the submission of more than the required photos in order to ensure we have sufficient options to choose from for the best presentation and to accommodate different layout options.

Image Format

Professional-quality digital images are expected. We can help with recommendations for improving shots. Send sample images once an article is accepted and we'll assist. Unless you have experience and the capability to convert images and prepare them for print, we will ask that you send the original image file that was saved directly from the camera (or as close to that as possible).

Images sizes

General article images: Minimum print size of 3"/75mm at 300 dpi (900x900 pixels minimum)

Cover candidates: Minimum 8"/200mm at 300 dpi on the short side (2400x2400 pixels minimum)

Headshots (for author bio): 1"/25mm head size (300 pixels minimum)

Acceptable file types

- ☐ High Resolution PDF's (PDF/X-1a compliant)
- ☐ JPG/JPEG
- ☐ TIFF or RAW
- ☐ No gifs or pngs
- ☐ Illustrations accepted in Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop or .eps

Specs

- ☐ Must be 300 dpi or higher at 5" or more on the short side
- ☐ CMYK
- ☐ Black and White images must be in gray scale or bit-mapped formats

Sending Images

Images under 10MB in size can be emailed but should be zipped. Larger files should be zipped and uploaded through a file-transfer site such as www.WeTransfer.com