

Mini Shrine Frame

By Laurie Mika

Supplies:

Wax paper

Viva paper towels

Two packages of (2 ounce) black polymer clay- Premo

Rubber stamp- Invoke Arts Shrine stamp (www.invokearts.com)

Clay Blade

Collage Image-either laser or inkjet

Collage Word-either laser or inkjet

Small square cookie cutter or clay scalpel

Gel medium-Mod Podge

Rub n Buff-silver - Michaels

Golden Quinacridone Nickel Azo Gold acrylic paint and Raw Umber acrylic paint

Jewelry pieces/doo-dads-Michaels strung beads

Pencil with an eraser

Weldbond glue

Distress Ink-antique linen from Tim Holtz/Ranger

Instructions:

Roll out 2 packages (2 ounce) of conditioned black polymer clay into a slab about 1/8 inch thick.

Stamp the frame stamp twice leaving at least 1/4 inch of clay around each image. The first stamping should be deeply impressed as this is the top of the frame and the second stamping should be done very lightly just to create a template, this is the bottom of the shrine frame.

Cut apart the two stamped frames again leaving at least 1/4 inch of space around the stamped frames.

Cut out a collage image to fit on the bottom frame using this second lightly stamped frame as a guide for sizing. The collage image can be either a laser or ink jet copy for this technique. Use gel medium to adhere the image to the center of the second (or bottom) stamped frame. (this is the lightly stamped one). Let dry

Use a small square cookie cutter to cut out the opening on the top frame stamp using the frame design as a template for cutting, checking to see how the image fits. You may also use a clay scalpel to cut out the window.

Use Rub n Buff on a paper towel and lightly go over the stamped image of this top frame to reveal the design.

Next apply a little paint with a paintbrush to tone down the piece and make it look more vintage or distressed. I used Raw Umber and Quinacridone Nickel Azo Gold paint.

While your paint is wet, apply paint to your shiny metal findings or jewelry pieces if you would like to tone them down. Dab off paint allowing it to settle in the crevices.

Next apply Weldbond glue to this painted top frame and place it onto the bottom frame so that the image fits properly.

Glue on jewelry pieces using Weldbond glue and a pencil eraser to embed them.

Cut out frame shape from the slab using a clay blade, bend the blade to cut the arch shape at the top. This technique makes the sides look seamless rather than cutting out two individual frames and gluing them together.

Use a bit of distress ink on a printed collage word and use gel medium to attach to clay frame where desired.

Bake as directed. I generally bake for 25 minutes in a 275° toaster oven.

For more information visit: www.mikaarts.com