

Cheryl's Little Creations

From quality time with the kids to shaping a successful home business, a little playdough can go a long way

I began decorating birthday and wedding cakes for friends and family when I was a teenager growing up in Mission, B.C. I also loved to make gingerbread houses—the more detailed, the better—and I still enjoy both pursuits. I've since married, had four kids, and moved to Prince Rupert, B.C., only to return to Mission nine years later. But the skills, patience and attention to detail I first developed as a teen continue to serve me well today, as a polymer-clay artist.

I'm self taught and make all my ornaments and figurines by hand, without the use of moulds or paints. Sometimes an idea for a new creation comes to me in the middle of the night, so I'll get up out of bed and work on my new design while the idea is fresh. I also get many design ideas from my children—actually, that's how the whole thing began. I'd make homemade playdough for them and we'd create all kinds of figurines and play food together. I discovered I really enjoyed creating with playdough, and I began to experiment. When I tried out polymer clay, I realized I could get very creative and very detailed with it. And I did!

I used my polymer-clay figurines to decorate some wedding cakes and gingerbread houses I had entered in competitions, and I ended up winning a few of the contests. Then a store owner who had seen my work offered to sell my products. My friends encouraged me to accept the

Cheryl uses polymer clay to handcraft figurines and ornaments for every occasion.



offer and that was the beginning of my home-based business, supplying stores with handcrafted ornaments and figurines. With a lot of legwork and word of mouth, I won over more and more stores as time went on. I sell mainly in Canada and the United States but, thanks to eBay, I've sold all over the world.

In the beginning, I focused mainly on Christmas, but with the growing trend towards really celebrating other holidays and special occasions, I've branched out considerably. I now have well over a hundred designs, and my website (www.cherylslittlecreations.com) is humming along. I still supply my first retail store, Studio 9, in Prince Rupert. My job gives me great satisfaction and, best of all, it affords me the luxury of being home for my family.

Cheryl Brown, Mission, B.C.

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