

! ELEMENTS ! CARING FOR OUR PRECIOUS EARTH PROJECT

Dear _____,

I am an artist; metalsmith and bookbinder. Currently I am working on a project called ! Elements ! Caring for our precious earth project.

I feel we all need to dig deeper to find connection with our precious earth and learn to care for it. I am attempting to do this literally by digging for the clay that underlies the topsoil layer in all 50 States and Territories of the United States, and hopefully eventually worldwide as well. I need your help!

I encourage you to join me! You can do this by sending me local clay samples. You also can make beautiful artworks using these precious earths and I encourage you to find ways to deepen your commitment stewardship to the elements, and enjoying their inherent beauties.

I will be using the clays to make pigments for paste papers - a long established art form of making decorative papers used for the covering and end papers on books.

Do you, or someone you know have a location you could dig deep enough to get to some clay and send me 3 pounds (equivalent to two or three peanut butter jars packed full). If you can, I would prefer to have you send this in recyclable plastic jars or bags, so they do not break in shipping and use! I intend to re-purpose these containers to make tools to create the papers! What I do not use will be recycled. Two or three pounds of clay would give me enough material to refine the particle size so that it makes a good colorant for the paste.

Is there any cultural heritage that you, your region, events, rituals or beliefs that you participate in that I might miss during my general research about your location? Would you mind answering a couple of biographical questions to accompany your clay samples? It would be interesting to find out a little background behind the clays and the people who generously donated their time and efforts to make this project possible! It could be a way to add to your contribution to make this a more meaningful and personal group project.

If you need more space to answer please use the back of this form! Thank you so much for your considerations and time!

My name is:

_____.

My sample is

from: _____ (State/
Province) _____ (Country) _____.

My address:

Name: _____

Street: _____

State/Province: _____

Country: _____.

Postal code/Zip: _____.

My other Contact information:

Email: _____

Phone: _____.

Why this project is compelling to me:

_____.

(Cultural) Ideas I would like (this is not required, but welcomed) to see expressed in the design of the papers made with my local clay samples:

_____.

Cultural heritage I am proud of _____

_____.

Challenges to my local region's water, soils, clays and mineral ores are: _____

_____.

What I learned about my regional challenges and/or successful stewardship solutions that worked were: _____

_____.

Any photos of you digging for the clay, making paste papers are welcome!

I hope to make a book or a small edition run of multiple books with samples of all of these paste papers, each uniquely and different, yet related by common ground that is our common home. Each paper (could possibly) have patterns influenced by the cultural heritages of where the clay was obtained. I will be making and using recycled materials to make my tools to create and decorate these papers.

This book or the multiple edition of books will be made using repurposed, reused and recycled materials as well, to honor all materials used as being worthy of our care and attention. Our precious Earth deserves our reverence.

A portion of the sales of these books that I make with all (our) clays, will be donated to organizations that are making a difference to reverse climate change and/or to heal the deterioration.misuse of the elements of soils, clays, metal ores, and water.

I will pay for the shipping of clays in a small USPS flat rate box to my address within the USA and Territories.
(International postage will need to be figured out as the need arises!)

I will pay shipping after the box arrives here.

Along with the postage reimbursement, **I would also like to send you a Gratitude Gift** of a small handmade journal made by me using my local Maryland clay as the pigment for the paste paper on its covers, and a sample of hand made paper using recycled paper and fabric pulp or repurposed fabrics as a thanks for your generous donation to this project. (This is why I ask for your shipping information, so I can get this to you!)

Guidelines for sourcing, digging and using the clays are found on my website: dawnartdesign.com if you follow prompts under Special projects on my home page you will find these and resources to create your own beautiful paste papers as well as ideas for stewardship of our earthly elements resources. This is a project in process, so keep checking back to see if more information /resources have been added.

email me at: Hoffmann.Dawn.K@gmail.com with any questions you may have. Please answer any of the questions above and add any information you think is relevant to your locale or situation. If you are able to participate/assist me by sending your local clay, I thank you and appreciate the time and thoughtful answers to my questions in the ! Elements ! Caring for our precious earth project.

Thank you so much for your participation!

Sincerely,
Dawn Kiilani Hoffmann