

Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

April-May-June 2005

www.mhpcg.org

Volume 9 Number 4

MHPCG SPRING RETREAT

May 13-14-15, 2005

Hampton Inn - Union & 1st, Lakewood

\$150 - 3 days & 2 nights (double occupancy)

Don't miss this opportunity to leave your cares behind & check into three days of clay, clay, clay! Demonstrations, explorations with new materials, and uninterrupted studio time. Our special guest, Donna Kato, will be showing us some new tricks and techniques.

Register today! Send check to: Sue Mueller P.O. Box 4629 Breckenridge, CO 80424

APRIL SHOWERS BRING

As we approach the end of our seventh year, it's time to say thank you to some of the folks who've kept the MHPCG ship afloat. Sincere thanks to retiring President Tina Holdman, for providing enthusiasm and creativity to our Clay Days and marshalling our cooperative efforts to host the outstanding workshop by Grant Diffendaffer. Tina has raised our color awareness by sharing incredible color recipes in our newsletter. (BTW: Tina promises to continue her column even though she's passing on the leadership torch.)

Thanks to VP Susan Mueller, who calmly and efficiently kept our membership roster up-to-date, sent out the informative e-mail meeting reminders, & corresponded with new and prospective members.

Thanks to our capable secretary Maggie Giza, who not only kept the minutes but also organized our sign-in at Clay Days & sent cards to members with serious illness or family concerns. And of course there's our reliable Treasurer Gerrie Wolf, who kept the books and wrote the checks and generally kept us solvent.

Thanks too, to webmaster Karen Goulet, who kept our site current as well as to all the folks who provided her with digital photos for posting.

Hooray for Diane Luftig, for doing an A+ job organizing programs, including our better-than-ever Holiday Recovery Party & the August meeting hosting the NPCG Board & guest artists Donna Kato, Debbie Jackson, Leslie Blackford and Judy Belcher.

Appreciation is also due our loyal librarian Tina Gugeler, for always seeing that our outstanding video collection was ready for checkout. And speaking of the library, where would be without Maggie Gizza, whose problem-solving skills were put to the test as she led a committee in developing a proposal to solve "The Check-out Dilema"! Thanks to Jan Frame, Tina Gugeler, Karen Sexton and Antje Ryken for serving on that committee.

The Guild's success depends on everyone continuing to pitch in and help with special events as well as Clay Days. "What you give is what you get" is a motto that is certainly true of MHPCG!



THE PREZ SAYS ...

by Tina Holdman

Spring is on our doorstep bringing warm sunny weather or cold and snow. In other words, it's pretty much a normal Colorado Spring time. As softer and lighter colors are seen in clothing stores, it's time to set aside your more somber color palette and pull out your white clay to whip up some pastels.

For those who do not haunt the pastel end of the color palette, this may be a bit of a challenge, but don't be too quick to move on to the next page of this newsletter. I, too, usually run away screaming from those soft colors. Give me those nice, rich greens and reds, those gaudy brights, or even those black and tan neutrals. But pastels? Poo and double poo! However, these pastel mixes actually came out very well. There is a time and place for the lovely soft, somewhat creamy colors, and they make accent colors for a richer palette as well.

My inspiration for these colors came courtesy of the Glidden paint color master sample book and from a Spring quilt instruction sheet. The colors have the names of the sample that most closely matches the recipe. You could substitute Premo pearl for the white in these recipes for a different look.. Diehard non-pastel folk can mix just the saturated colors leaving out the ecru and white for those richer colors. So -- stir up a Mimosa or cup of hot chocolate, depending on the weather, and start mixing!

Daffodil Hill

This is a lighter shade of daffodil yellow, a softer version that is cheerful and warm.

7 parts Premo White
1 1/2 parts Premo Zinc Yellow
1 part Premo Ecru
1/2 part Premo Cadmium yellow

Woodbine

This is a sage green, not a 'standard' pastel green. I like it better than the usual apple green. It's a great color for those of you who like working with earthy tones.

6 parts Premo Ecru
5 parts Premo White
2 parts Premo Green
1 part Premo Raw Sienna

Versailles

This is one of my favorite colors, albeit usually in the darker tones. It's a periwinkle blue that borders on purple. This beautiful shade would be a great color for those who like working with purples & golds.

9 parts Premo White
2 parts Cobalt Blue
1 part Premo Purple

Clear Sky

This is a rich, clean light blue, the color of the sky just as it starts to darken before sunset.

5 parts Premo White
3 parts Premo Cobalt Blue
1 part Premo Turquoise
1 part Premo Ecru

Pink Cherub

This shade is between a rose pink & a sweet little girl pink. It's the color of wild hedge roses in the Midwest.

6 parts Premo White
4 parts Premo Ecru
1/2 part Premo Fushia
1/2 part Premo Brilliant Red
1/2 part Premo Purple

MILE HIGH POLYMER CLAY GUILD NEWS

We 'old' members often overlook the fact that new members may not know the details about how the guild functions. So here -- for review and enlightenment, are some highlights:

Through the year with MHPCCG:

May: New Officers are elected.

June: New officers assume their duties; dues are due!

July/August: Yes, we do meet throughout the summer - same time, same place.

December: no meeting - enjoy the holidays!

January: **Holiday Recovery Party!**

The **newsletter** is published in January, April, July and October. Members' contributions are welcomed!

Dues: \$30 full year; \$15 for associate members living outside the Denver area. New members joining January-June pay half.

Money: Our dues cover a variety of annual expenses: Church rental fees, printing and postage for the newsletter and annual membership directory; special treats for Holiday Recovery Party, annual website fee. The Silent Auction proceeds are used for special purchases: video/vcr, PMC kiln & tumbler, clay extruder, storage carts, tables, extension cords and multiple plugs, and to underwrite workshops.

Library: The library is self-supporting through rental fees.

COMING ATTRACTIONS ...

Diane has arranged for **KATHLEEN DUSTIN**, one of the best-known and admired artists in the US today, to teach a workshop in **March 2006!** Details will be

announced as soon as they are complete. There are eighteen openings in this class and those with dues current when registration begins will be first in line. If the sign-ups exceed the class size limit, we will draw names from a hat & set up a waiting list.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Leslie Maya-Charles

140 Cessna Drive Erie, CO 80516

303-666-5537

mayaplya@infionline.net

Tina McDonald

350 W. 114th St. #1408 Northglenn, Co 80234

303-280-8297

tlmcd@netzero.com

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Rosemary Probst

4800 W. Evans, Denver, CO 80219

Joanne McGee - Home phone #: 303-871-8133

Robyn Maxwell - e-mail: maxxxx@peoplepc.com

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following slate of officers will be presented for vote at the May meeting:

President: Diane Luftig

VP/Membership: Susan Mueller

Secretary: Robyn Maxwell

Treasurer: Gerrie Wolf



We welcome other candidates. If you're interested in running for office, please contact Tina Holdman, 303-423-3527



THE GRAND COVER UP ...

Have you ever considered the vast number of items that can be enhanced with a polymer clay cover-up? Large or small, frivolous or practical, all sorts of items just beg for us to use our artistic skills and add a coating (or two) to their mundane surfaces. And it's no wonder! Polymer clay is a natural addition to nearly any surface with only minor preparation, like a coat of white glue or light sanding.

Moisture is a concern when covering wooden items. Some folks recommend drying the piece in a low-temp oven for half hour or so and then adding either a coat of acrylic paint or Sobo Glue. Papier Mache and other porous surfaces such as terra cotta also need a coating of white glue. Regardless of the surface, be SURE to let the glue dry completely before adding the clay covering.

Plastic objects with a #5 recycle code (usually on the bottom) can withstand the 275 degrees required to cure polymer clay. Surprisingly, the lightweight Dannon yogurt containers are a #5, though I've never thought of a use for clay-covered yogurt tubs! Black 35 mm Kodak film canisters can also be baked if the clay completely covers the surface & if baking time is kept to a minimum. It's an urban legend that they contain 'toxic residues'. The dark amber pill bottles, PVC pipe and Bic Round Stick pens also withstand low temperature oven heat. (Be sure to remove the ink cartridge before baking!) Lightly sanding the surface or applying a light coating of Sobo helps the clay adhere to plastic surfaces.

Glass items need a "mechanical bond", that is, the clay wrapped & connected around the entire piece. Individual clay embellishments are best baked so they conform to the curve, popped off, and reglued with E-6000 or cyanoacrylate super glue. The new Polybond glue is handy for securing clay to a glass surface before baking.

A window can be created in any clay-covered glass vessel or ornament so that the contents or light (as with a candle votive) shows through. Salt and pepper shakers benefit from the contents showing as part of the design. To create windows, simply cover the glass object with a thin sheet of clay and then carefully cut out openings with small shaped Kemper cutters. Irene Semanchuck Dean has an attractive Skinner Blend-salt/paper shaker project in her first book, The Weekend Crafter: Polymer Clay.

Artists Pier Volkous, & Bonnie Bishoff are well-known for their beautiful baked clay veneers applied to wooden boxes and furniture. Their creations were done in collaboration with their equally talented husbands who built the wooden underpinings. Think of the variety of mica shift, cane or mokume gane surface treatments that could be used. Recommendations for baked veneers include keeping the sheets fairly thin (#3 or 4 on an Atlas) and baking them between cardstock and ceramic tiles to avoid warping. After baking the thinner sheets will conform to curved surfaces & can be attached with a good quality glue.

Many folks create removable polymer clay sleeves to slip over kitchen and bathroom items which have distracting packaging colors or contents which aren't oven-proof. The clay designs can be in colors that

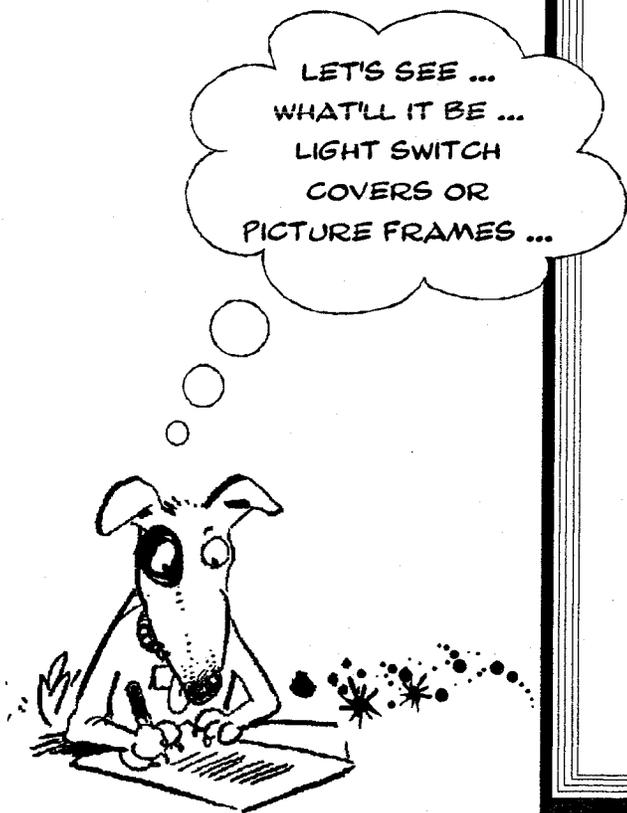
coordinate with room decor. I have plans to build a clay sleeve to slip over my small coffee grinder. Because clay slumps during baking, it's a good idea to provide some sort of support. Cardstock can be taped to form a cylinder, oatmeal cartons or other cardboard food boxes can easily be adapted for this purpose. Dusting the raw clay with cornstarch will prevent it from sticking to the form. Cylindrical sleeves can also be reinforced by embedding Wireform mesh between the clay layers. Jacqueline Gikow details this technique in her book, Polymer Clay: Creating Functional & Decorative Objects.

Boxes are an all-time covering favorite, probably because of the vast variety of sizes and shapes available. Miniature match boxes are fun to design and use as pendants. The drawers offer an intriguing opportunity for including a 'surprise inside'. Tin boxes come in the traditional Altoid size and shape or in smaller sizes with sliding tops. A variety of tins are available at www.clayalley.com , www.puffinalia.com or www.independentcan.com. (What uses can you think of for those flat tin CD boxes?)

Several on-line businesses offer a number of unusual items for clay-covering projects. Kaleidoscopes, magnifying glasses, bottle openers, card cases, pens, key fobs and letter openers are just a few of the things that are fair game for clayers. Good sources for clay-covered gift items include: www.pennstateindustries.com, www.bostonclayworks.com, www.lanyardsupply.com.

The variety of objects offering creative covering possibilities is nearly limitless. Add your ideas to the following list and bring your projects to share at Clay Day!

KS



- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Switch Plates | Perfume pen atomizer |
| Wooden Knobs | Compact |
| Handles | Mirrors |
| Candleholder | Table lamp |
| Votive Holder | Barrette |
| Cans (pencil holders) | Yo-yo |
| License Plate Holder | Pocket watch |
| Badgeholder | Clock |
| Pen | Kaleidoscope |
| Business card holder | Keychain |
| M&M Container | Bottle Stopper |
| Index card box | Salt & Pepper |
| Book ends | Shakers |
| Picture frame | Silverware Handles |
| Cell phone cover | Book jacket |
| Magnifying glass handle | Memo pad cover |
| | Kazoo |

RESOURCES FOR DOLL AND MINIATURE ENTHUSIASTS

Because many members are only involved in designing jewelry, we sometimes overlook those interested in figurines, dolls, and other 3-D creations. Here are some recommended resources especially for our sculptors.

(All books are available from www.amazon.com)

Kathleen Dewey:

[Creating Lifeline Figures in Polymer clay](#)

Susan Oroyan:

[Anatomy of a Doll](#)

[Fantastic Figures](#)

[Designing the Doll](#)

Dinko Tilov

[Creating Fantasy Polymer Clay](#)

[Characters: step by step trolls, wizards, dragons, knights, skeletons, Santas & More](#)

Regina Edmonds

[Sculpting Fairies in Polymer Clay](#)

Maureen Carlson

[How to Make Clay Characters](#)

[Family & Friends in Polymer Clay](#)

[Clay Characters for Kids](#)

DVD workshops:

[Sculpting Whimsical Faces in PMC](#)
(Margine Crossman)

[Art of the Dollmaker](#)
(Lisa Lichtenfels)

Websites - doll & figurines:

www.dinkos.com

www.weebeings.com

www.greenspiritstudio.com

patriciarose.com
pixiwillow.com

www.marilynradzt.com/

www.emilysfairies.com/home.htm

www.junegoodnow.com

www.pcpolyzine.com/november2001/davis.html

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

www.skybluepink.com

"...cool stuff for non-fancy prices"

www.wackywagon.com

"...a huge variety of craft supplies ..."

www.polymerclaypeople.com/pricing/html

"...practical information about pricing your polymer clay art ..."



Eileen Loring's polymer clay box won HONORABLE MENTION in the Kato Polyclay invitational exhibit at the 2005 CHA show in Atlanta, Georgia. The boxes were created by polymer clay artists from throughout the U.S. The show featured new craft products & is attended by vendors and store owners worldwide.

Sally Evans will be featured on HGTV's popular program "Crafters Coast to Coast". The doll she made for the show is displayed on her website, www.sallyevansart.com.

Sally's also teaching beading classes at Hobby Lobby and is planning these future classes: PMC Charm Bracelet, Bead & Wire, Crocheted Wire.

SWAP REPORT

Hooray for Barb Harper who efficiently honchoed our "Rosemary's Babies" swap and for Rosemary Probst, who demonstrated the project. Thanks to Marian Gurnee for sharing pictures of the instructions via e-mail. The swap was great fun and the 'babies' were an impressive array of creative innovations. Barb, our Swapmeister par excellence, is organizing a black & white pin swap with sign-up at the April Clay Day.

NEW TOOLS AND TREASURES

If you're looking for vintage ephemera for transfers, collages or other polymer clay or paper projects, www.tuscanrose.com has several collections. Using a desktop or photo-editing program, the individual images can be resized and compiled on one page for printing. Each CD has 1,000 vintage images including postage stamps, photos, advertisements & documents.

Note: some CD image collections such as Crafter's Images, are sold at hobby stores but are resizeable in only three pre-set dimensions and cannot be put into other programs for editing. They are intended for fabric art & have more limited use for clayers.

Amaco has new flexible push molds in African and Egyptian motifs. If you enjoy ethnic designs, you may like them. (Available at Michaels, Hobby Lobby & JoAnn's.)

Liquid Poly Glo, a liquid clay that glows in the dark, is available at www.puffinalia.com. Most colors don't show up until they're in the dark. Consider the possibilities for glowing fairy wings, bathroom switchplates, dragons with glowing eyes!

At Puffinalia.com you can also buy Marie Segal's favorite "Cool Tool" which has six different tool tips that screw into a cushioned handle.

Stewart-Gil, a British manufacturer, offers several metallic paints with potential use with polymer clay: **Byzantia, Meta Mica, Pearlese and Alchemy**. E-mail Linda@puffinalia.com for a list of colors and prices. Our field agents report that the Meta Micas are especially luscious.

The Wilson cake decorating people have a roller set with interchangeable textures useful for clay as well as cakes. (Thanks, Rhonda, for sharing.)

Lisa Pavelka, in cooperation with Ranger Industries, has launched a new product: **Poly-Glaze**. It's a water based sealer intended to be applied after baking to create realistic glass-like or enamel effects, all without sanding and buffing. Lisa says it's a better alternative to UTEE (ultra thick embossing enamel) because it stays crystal clear & is flexible. It can be applied in layers for added depth. Imagine using it to enhance mokume gane cabachons! For more information, visit Lisa's website: www.heartinhandstudio.com

The packaging for Lisa's **Poly Bonder** glue has been improved and larger sized bottles will be available soon. Also, wider distribution of this product can be expected later this year.

VIRTUAL RUBBER STAMPS!

Cre-8-it, publisher of Now What and Whatever Whenever e-zines, is offering an innovative CD featuring a Photoshop Elements tutorial for non-computer people. Also included is a set of 'virtual' rubber stamps. Check out the information in their most recent Whatever, Whenever e-zine at www.cre8it.com.

Yes, Virginia, there are new rubber texture sheets! And they're very special ones, too! You'll find Donna Kato's new designs at www.prairiecraft.com (Deeply etched and designed especially for polymer clay, they're worth ordering!)

Oh no!
Not MORE new
rubber stamps!!!!



PRIZES AND SURPRISES!



At our April Clay Day we'll be drawing for a free pass to our May Retreat, a

Donna Kato Pendant, jewelry by our own MHPCG artists & other valuable prizes. You can buy tickets at the April Clay Day. Be there! You won't want to miss this exciting opportunity!

CLAY DAYS

April 23, 2005

May 28, 2005

June 25, 2005



REMINDER:

Send your dues check to:

Susan Mueller

P.O. Box 4629

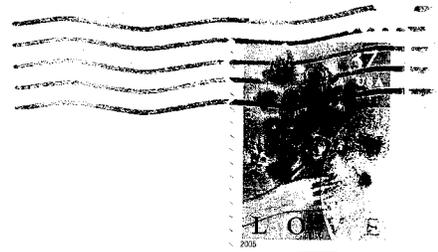
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You are the hero in your own life story.

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