

Mile High Polymer Clay Newsletter

April, May, June 2007

www.mhpcg.org

President's Letter

Happy Spring, MHPCG Members!

Our Retreat will be held May 18-19, 2007. The registration form is in this newsletter. Space is limited, so sign up early!

Elections are coming up at the May meeting. The positions for election are President, Vice President-Membership, Treasurer and Secretary. Please contact a board member to enter your name on the ballot. Officers take office effective with the June meeting.

The equipment rental program has been finalized and will take place at the April meeting. Details are specified in this newsletter.

Debbie Jackson has been selected as our 2007 visiting artist. A two-day workshop is scheduled for August 18th & 19th. You may sign up for one or both days. The classes are described in this newsletter. Registration details will be sent via e-mail & will also be in the July newsletter.

My special thanks to the board members and retreat committee members who planned our retreat this year. I have been very fortunate to have such a strong support group during my terms as President.

Thank you.

Diane Luftig





Exploring the Rainbow with Tina Holdman

Color Recipe Collection #13 - Salute to Karen Sexton Colors

I had worked for about seven years in isolation, not meeting narry a soul who worked in clay.

When I moved to Denver and read about MHPCG I was eager to join. I was a bit anxious about showing my work, though. What if the esteemed guild members thought my work was crummy, weird or dorky?

Karen Sexton was the first person I met in the guild when I joined a billion years ago. She made me feel welcome, she thought my clay work was fabulous and I was hooked! And to be frank, I'm not sure if my work was all that fabulous back then.

I've seen Karen make dozens and dozens of new folks welcome since then. Many people tell me stories of how

they joined the guild and even if it's been years, like me, they remember with affection how Karen made them so welcome. She is generous with her time and knowledge and is always willing to volunteer and contribute to guild functions.

This collection is comprised of greens and peaches which of course is one of Karen's favorite palettes. I have stayed close to the colors she likes, but shifted them a bit to stretch comfort levels. This palette would work well with browns and creams if you need a wider selection of colors. If you'd like to have more saturated (deeper) colors, then decrease the white in these recipes. If you prefer lighter, more pastel colors, then add more white or ecru.

Medium Peachy Orange

4 parts Premo Ecru
3 parts Premo Zinc Yellow
3 parts Premo White
1 part Premo Orange
1/2 part Premo Cadmium Red

Medium Light Peach

8 parts Premo white
4 parts Premo Orange
2 parts Premo Ecru
1/4 part Premo Cadmium Red

Warm Peachy Yellow

9 parts Premo White
6 parts Premo Cadmium Yellow
4 parts Premo Ecru
1 part Premo Zinc Yellow

Lighter Spring Green

6 parts Premo White
2 parts Premo Ecru
1 part Premo Sea Green
1 part Premo Zinc Yellow

Lighter Forest Green

5 parts Premo White
2 parts Premo Green
1/4 part Premo Raw Sienna

Medium Forest Green

6 parts Premo Ecru
4 parts Premo Green
2 parts Premo Burnt Umber
1 part Premo Sea Green
1 part Premo Orange

Editor's note: Thank you, Tina, for the very kind words and for the color recipes! You are appreciated!

KS

Equipment Rental Policy

Polypress - \$10/month	Deposit: \$100
Buffer - \$10/month	Deposit \$200
Vibratory Tumbler - \$5/month	Deposit \$50
Rotary tumbler \$3/month	Deposit \$40

- ◆ Please note that the deposit fees vary for each piece of equipment & reflect the cost of replacement. Deposit checks will be returned at the end of the rental month when the equipment is checked in with the Librarian.
- ◆ All currently paid members are eligible to rent equipment.
- ◆ Equipment must be returned by 10 a.m. at the next guild meeting.
- ◆ If more than one person wants a piece of equipment, a sign-up sheet will be started.
- ◆ A late fee will be double the rental price if the

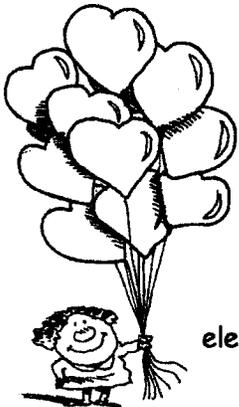
equipment is not returned by the following meeting.

- ◆ Equipment is to be returned in the condition it was rented.
- ◆ A "how to use" notebook with instructions will be kept in the library and a copy will go out with the equipment. The notebook must be returned with the equipment.

The Librarian (Tina Gugeler) is in charge of all rentals.

Note: The PMC kiln will not be rented because it is too fragile. However it will be available for use at guild meetings & retreats by qualified persons.

New Members



Angela Moore

20160 E. Doane Dr.
Aurora, CO 80013
303 680 7350 (h)

elementaldragons@comcast.net

April Davidson

1225 S. Oneida St. #244
Denver, CO 80224
303 758 1488 (h)

303 641 9009 (c)

AJ_CRE8F@msn.com

Lucille Frischetta

2708 West Lake Court
Longmont, CO 80604
720 684 6067 (h)

732 447 3708 (c)

lucki46@comcast.net

Clare Parmuk

135 S. Oneida Way
Centennial, CO 80111
303 955 7599 (h)
clareonarope@yahoo.com

Carol Chastain

9410 N. Clydesdale Rd.
Castle Rock, CO 80108
303 799 1492 (h)

tchastain7@earthlink.net

Maria Clark

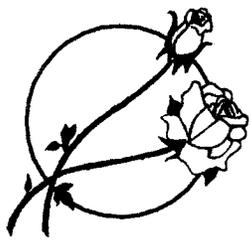
9340 W. Mexico Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80232
303 986 6599 (h)

720 849 2598 (c)
mariaclark@qwest.net

Carol Devlin

7513 Gartner Rd.
Evergreen, CO 80439
303 670- -3090 (h)

ntnmeadow2@msn.com



Polymer News & Views

by Peg Harper

Serendipity made it possible for me to attend the Crafts & Hobbies

Association (CHA) trade show in Anaheim this past January. I was able to be there during two days of set-up and the first two days of the show itself. I had my good old rental scooter "The Red Menace" which really helped me get around. I wish now that I had thought to get one for Priscilla Hauser as she has the same sore joints.

The show was good-sized with a huge assortment of scrapbooking merchandise. I didn't see much new in the PC world but, of course, there were several cross-over possibilities. Donna Kato found the best piece. It's a system for making your own rubber stamps and stencils using envelopes of gel that harden under a 60-watt light bulb! Donna has it now and has promised to share the results when she's had time to play with it. The system comes from the UK and is patent pending. It's called "Imagepac".

Martha Stewart was keynote speaker. That was a disappointment. People paid \$30 each to hear her talk about how wonderful her new line of craft products is going to be. One merchant commented that she had paid money to hear Martha Stewart tell her that she was going to do her best to put craft stores out of business. Her answers to the three audience questions she allowed were far from satisfactory.

By the time I left the show to return home I was really ready! Most people visiting the show were towing roller cases behind them. Some had two cases. They had a tendency to stand in the walkways and turn to visit with each other so that the cases were behind them. You

didn't want to interrupt a reunion between friends or a budding professional relationship but if you couldn't get their attention visually you had to ask them to make way for you to get by. Not to mention that if you were on a scooter or in a wheelchair there was very little in the booths that you can even get to see! Grrr!

Once I'd returned home and had a chance to think about this show I started comparing it to the many music trade shows I attended in my younger years. My father-in-law was a founding member of the National Association of Music Merchants almost forty years ago. The west coast show of NAMM now takes up ALL the Anaheim convention center as well as most surrounding hotel conference centers and even spreads to warehouses in the Orange County area. Early on, the NAMM recognized that its main goal would have to be education so that it could assure a future market for musical merchandise.

That's what's missing from CHA. I realize it's a relatively new organization. I hope those in charge will make up their minds to begin being involved in the education of future crafters. The artists will do fine on their own but if you look around at the average age of our current claying population you realize that we need to get more involved in the future generation.

I, for one, hope to start a young people's clay school this summer either at the Bead Lounge or in some community center nearby. We owe it to ourselves to educate the youth around us about this wonderful, versatile medium.

OK, I'll put the soapbox away for now!

Peg

Bottles of Hope Challenge

Due to the overwhelming response to Amaco's January 2007 Bottles of Hope Designer's Challenge, the company is launching a repeat event with a May 1, 2007 deadline. All bottles submitted will be given to cancer patients & Amaco will make a donation on behalf of each winner to the cancer charity of their choice. Winners will also receive an AMACO gift certificate as well as an engraved plaque with a depiction of their entry. Complete challenge details, rules and entry forms are posted on: www.amaco.com/. Previous challenge contestants, photos of bottles entered and winning bottles are in the e-newsletter archives.



Websites Worth Visiting

If you have high speed internet, these sites offer clever ways to create your own artwork using cyber media. (Warning: they're nearly as addictive as Spider Solitaire!)

www.typogenerator.net

www.artpad.art.com/artpad/painter

www.vam.ac.uk

(Look under "other things to do on-line" design a tile.)

www.harcourtschool.com/activity/cartouche/cartouche.html

(create a personal cartouche)

www.blessthischick.com/ (...a paperdoll chick with whimsical interchangeable outfits including shoes, wings & halos!)

Even more amazing are the number of tutorial videos on-line.

www.firemountaingems.com (Judy Belcher's segments from the PBS jewelry series). Thanks, Milli!

www.youtube.com (Use the search engine to find polymer clay

tutorials. The best so far: Maggie Maggio demonstrating her color-mixing technique & a three part video by Suzanne Ivester showing how to make a simple yet complex-looking kaleidoscope cane. Don't miss the hilarious video showing how to craft a charming pink pig while mambo music plays in the background. ("Mama Loves Mambo"!)

Try these sites for information & inspiration:

www.kivett-studio.com

(goddess doll patterns - free download)

www.tooaquarius.com

Set aside a considerable chunk of time to explore this site which offers innovative how-tos & tutorials. Clay Math Part III is especially interesting.

www.michaeldemeng.com/

Innovative shrines made from matchboxes

Sharing Polymer Clay Skills with Teens

by Carl Unrein

I just finished a two day clay class at Jim Elliot Christian School. Eighteen junior high students filled the classroom & waited to learn all they could. Actually, they were typical junior highers & the hardest part of teaching the class was getting their attention! Most didn't seem very impressed at first, but when I had them pick out their clay color and started demonstrating the basics of making a little dog, they all followed along. Soon it was so quiet you could almost hear the clay being rolled and squeezed as they realized that they could embellish & use their own creativity to make the project uniquely theirs. One student was making a tiny green penguin & about half the class made little dogs sitting with their back legs straight out in front, just like the demo.

But the ears, noses, eyes, mouths and feet took on lives of their own. There were blue and purple bride & groom dogs, a plain (but distinctive) dark purple dog, black dogs, red dogs. Suddenly a few students realized they could share colors & make two or three toned dogs plus other shapes like a tall skinny hobo, rings, and not one but two R2D2's.

I had taken things I'd made and a few things from various swaps. They were very curious about how canes are made, so for the second class I took a Carol Duvall video

demo-ing a kaleidoscope cane, something I'd just learned to do. I also made a lady bug cane since it was much simpler. They loved the video and the demos & wanted to make canes. I'd explained earlier there wasn't enough clay for each to make a cane. Instead I bought cookie cutters and let them play with those. One or two students were "bored" and one just wouldn't do anything until I demonstrated how to make Natasha beads using their scraps. The girls made beautiful flowers and beads. Even one of the boys made beads & planned to string them later on. We didn't do the Bottles of Hope. They really just wanted to play & make things they could take home.

What a fun two days! The teachers & students are making a thank you card which I'll bring to Clay Day along with pictures. Several kids asked when I'm coming back to teach them more. Guess I'll have to schedule some days this summer & invite them over to play with clay!

I'm so grateful to everyone at the Guild who donated clay & tools. Thank you!

Library News

Watching our newest DVD, "Tribal Treasures" is like having a front row seat in Sharilyn Miller's workshop. The close camera work is the best we've seen. The content focus is basic wire-working skills: jump rings, bead dangles, wrapped eyepins, spirals, coiled beads, etc. & how to put them all together to create a beautiful wire & bead bracelet. Each carefully demonstrated step is complemented by the artist's pleasant voice-over explanation. We'd give this DVD an A+. KS

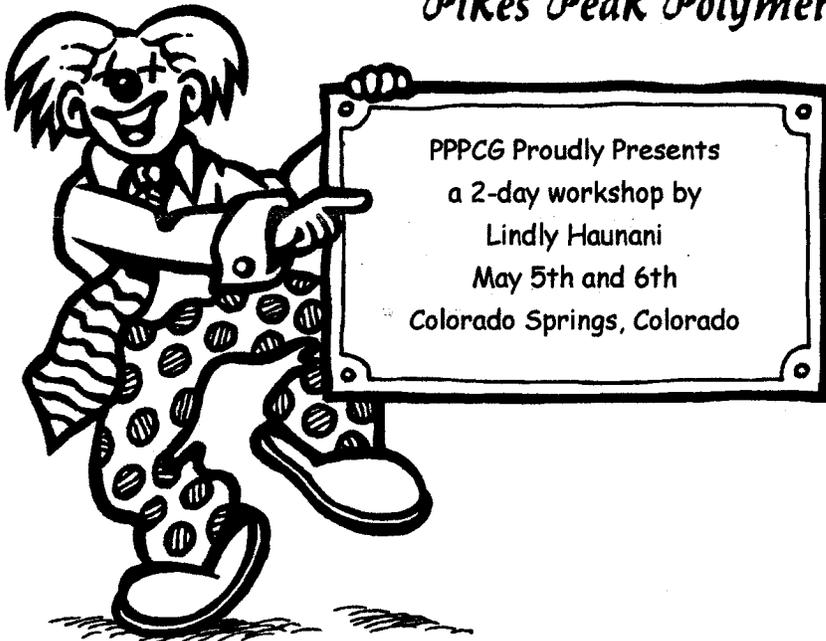
Also new in the library: several of Bead & Button's 'easy-does-it' series including Fibers & Beads, Christy Friesen's Under the Sea and Sarajane Helm's new book Adapting Quilt Patterns to Polymer Clay.

Unique Publications

Creating your Own Texture Sheets: Canadian artist Helen Breil shares secrets for making her unusual texture plates using simple household tools and scrap clay. She also shows ways to enhance textures with mica powders. It's a best buy at \$7.00 and can be ordered from www.shadesofclay.com

Inkjet Transfers: North Carolina artist Jeanne Rhea offers an excellent self-publication detailing many facets of applying ink jet photo transfers to beads and other convex and concave surfaces. Coupled with clear explanations, colored photographs and FAQs, this booklet will make you scurry to locate your clip art books & ink jet waterslide decal paper. Order the publication directly from Jeanne at: www.jeannerhea.com

Pikes Peak Polymer Clay Guild News



Registration information:

Current membership is required:*

\$30 regular

\$15 associate (member of MHPCG)

Day one: \$75 + \$15 materials fee

Day two: \$75 + \$12 materials fee

BOTH days: \$130 + \$27 materials fee

Send name, address, e-mail info & checks made payable to

PPPCG to: Peg Montieth

P.O. Box 993 Florissant, CO 80816

May 5th: Wearable Color Samples/Colorful Textile Inspiration

Learn strategies for designing & mixing cohesive color schemes & techniques for making laminated textile patterns. Leave with a series of wearable color samples & an increased awareness of how appropriate color choices & contrasts can impact your work.

May 6th - Haunani Gane

Learn how to make Lindly's own interpretation of mokume gane - a glistening, gossamer layering of polymer clay. You'll learn useful tricks and tips while making a brooch, pendant and earring set. Learn keys to color selection, how to tint translucent clay, and useful strategies for multi-layered mokume gane blocks. Discover what works best for beads, sculptured surfaces & flat pieces & explore ways to manipulate the surface finish to accent the beautiful designs you've created.

Important note: You may sign up for either one or both workshops. * Please write two checks: one dues and one for the workshop tuition.

Questions? Contact Peg Montieth 719-689-0733

pegmontieth@aol.com

Calling All Magpies!



Debbie Jackson, noted polymer artist, author & teacher will present a workshop "Mesmerizing Metallics" on Thursday & Friday, August 16th-17th at the Lockwood Christian Fellowship.

unleashed as you create a dazzling collage pendant, make a trio of buttons that have the appearance of enamel, and compose a shimmering stretch bangle with Jones Tones, glitter and sparkling leaf canes. Other projects include an intriguing abalone brooch with genuine laminated paua shell sheets and an elegant pair of debossed earrings. You'll have some additional fun making a basket of beetles that will make you smile.

During this exciting two-day class you'll learn innovative techniques using Jones Tones foil, Tyvek, Pearl-Ex powders, Glitterati Film & Fibers, metallic paints, glitter, composition leaf, rub-ons and more. Using these materials you'll produce a series of metallic clay sheets to be used as components and embellishments. Your creativity will be

We will send more information and registration forms via e-mail. Meantime, save your pennies and plan to attend this stellar event! Keep in mind that you may sign up for one or both days.

Etcetera ...

Hats off to Pikes Peak Polymer Clay Guild! Their brand new website is artful & current and even contains a blog detailing meetings and special events. (www.pppcg.org) Tejae Floyd deserves three cheers for lending her artistic talents to its design.

The recent proliferation of 'blogs' has provided a wealth of inspiration and information regarding polymer and related arts. My favorite is Cynthia Tinapple's classy www.polymerclaydaily.com, and I regularly read www.libzoid.blogspot.com, www.polymerclaynotes.com, www.polmerionline.blogspot.com, & www.maggiemaggio.com. One blog leads to another ... and another ... and ...

If you're interested in exploring a myriad of bead designs using exciting new and enticing old techniques, consider the new publication **Making Polymer Clay Beads** by British artist Carol Blackburn. It's a treasure!

Texas clayer Mary Vanderwood gave us her OK to share this technique for reducing canes with a minimum of waste.

Mary is a member of the North Texas PC Guild and frequently posts on the Polymer Clay Interest Yahoo group. Mary writes: "Before beginning to reduce a cane, condition some scrap clay and add a 2-3" extension on both ends. Make sure it's the same diameter as the cane and that you

join the seams so you have only one cane. As you reduce, the end of the cane goes in on itself pulling the center with it. With this method the only clay distorting in on itself is the scrap, not the precious cane."

Barb Harper, our efficient Swapmeister, is negotiating a swap with PPPCG. Details will be announced soon! Hint: any bead-making skills you've acquired will probably come in handy!

We're fortunate to have Holly Wolfe as our new official photographer. She'll be snapping pics at Clay Days and special events. Bring your latest work to display in the gallery so she can help us update our website with new pictures! Thanks, Holly!

Thanks, also, to Karen Green, our Treats & Goodies organizer. Please help make her job easier by volunteering to bring a refreshment to Clay Day.

Check out the newly renovated www.NPCG.org website! It is chock-full of exciting information and ideas. Consider joining NPCG to gain entry to the members-only section, which has even more treasures!



MHPCG Board

President - Diane Luftig
Vice President - Sue Mueller
Secretary - Bonnie Torres
Librarian - Tina Gugeler
Webmaster - Karen Goulet
Newsletter Editor - Karen Sexton
Swapmeister - Barb Harper
Program Chair - Debbra Woznick



Clay Days
April 28th
May 26th
June 23rd
July 28th
August 28th (note change)
Retreat May 18-19th
Debbie Jackson's Workshop
August 16-17th



Have you seen Tina G.'s article "Asian Flair Kaleidoscope Pendants" in the new Belle Armoire special publication, 'Jewelry'? Congratulations, Tina!



Dues are due June 1st. This is the last newsletter you'll receive unless you are a paid member. Send checks to Sue Mueller P.O. Box 4620 Breckenridge, CO 80424.

Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter
Karen Sexton, Editor
1209 E. Easter Avenue
Centennial, CO 80122



Laura Schiller
435 Evergreen Street
Broomfield, CO 80020

