

# Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

April, May, June 2008

www.mhpcg.org

## Spring Retreat Plans Are Underway

Our 3rd annual Retreat is scheduled for May 2-3 at the Lockwood Christian Fellowship. The event kicks off at 4 p.m. Friday with a get-acquainted session and buffet supper. Events scheduled for Saturday include breakfast, demonstrations, buffet lunch, and a group hands-on activity. Throughout the Retreat there will be a gallery, special displays, prizes, surprises fellowship and fun! We hope you'll be there!

Thanks to Retreat Facilitators Peg Harper, Debbra Woznick & Angela Konikow and to Committee Chairs Deb Brooner (food), Barb Harper (souvenir pins), Angela K. & Debbra W. (set-up), Lucille Fischetta & Marian Gurnee (clean-up), Debbra W. (evaluations), Sue Mueller (Registration & Publicity), Karen Sexton (Publicity), Debbra Woznick (evaluations) and Marion Gurnee (Thank you notes), Carol Unrein & Millie Barton (name tags). Our Retreat is a co-op effort. Please Let Peg H. know how you can help! (pegharper@comcast.net)

## Tory Hughes Workshop Scheduled

Mark your calendars for **October 18th & 19th** & start putting money in your piggy bank. You don't want to miss Tory Hughes' "Mixed Media Hinged Pendants" workshop! It will be held at the Hampton Inn at 1st & Union. Read the class description and view Tory's outstanding work on her website: [www.ToryHughes.com](http://www.ToryHughes.com).

Thanks to Joanne McGee for researching & finding a venue which will make it possible to have a Saturday.-Sunday workshop that will better accomodate our members who have Monday-Friday jobs. Registration information will be included in the July newsletter.



**Thanks** - Carol Unrein for making the attractive new name tags!

## Members' Work on Display

MHPCG members' work will be on display during April at the Longmont Library. Please invite your friends and family to stop by and view the display.

**Longmont Public Library**

**409 4th Avenue Longmont, CO 80501**

Thanks to Lucille Fischetta for arranging this exhibit and to Peg & Gary Harper for helping with set-up.

## Important Reminders

It hardly seems possible that it's time to end this year and look forward to the next. **Dues are due June 1st & election of officers will be held at the April meeting.**

Please send your dues check to Sue Mueller, P.O. Box 4629 Breckenridge, CO. 80424 (\$30 for in-town members and \$15 for members of PPPCG.)

The Guild Board is composed of elected officers (President, VP-Membership, Secretary, Treasurer) immediate Past President and standing committee chairs appointed by the Executive Board. (Librarian, Program, Website, Newsletter & Store). The slate of officers for 2008-9 are: President - Peg Harper, VP - Susan Mueller, Secretary - Angela Konikow, Treasurer- Milli Barton. Contact Sue Mueller if you're interested in adding your name to the slate.

Our dues cover a variety of annual expenses: Church rent (\$75 meeting), newsletter printing/postage, special treats for the Holiday Recovery Party and incidental expenses. The \$3 library rental fees keep the library solvent for new purchases & replacement. Silent Auction proceeds help offset workshop costs & special purchases such as our PMC kiln & tumbler, convection ovens, storage carts, tables, clay extruders and Freedom buffer.

At the March meeting, the Board approved purchasing a new video camera so that we can again record all demos and member-taught workshops. These will be available for check-out from our library.

## *President's Letter*

It does not seem possible that another year has almost rolled around again. As the retiring Guild President there are a few things I would like to share.

First and foremost, I want to thank the members of the guild. I think we have had a great year with many enthusiastic members and many new ones. It is great to see the turnout month after month and the excitement of meeting with other clayers and sharing ideas.

The second most important is the dedication and hard work of the board. They have done a tremendous job and I want to thank all of them for their hard work.

The third thing I want to address is the guild leadership. I think it is important that other members get involved in running the guild. It is time to let the old guard retire and new faces appear. If we want our guild to grow and continue to be well known we need to have new faces and new ideas. There are always new ways of doing things and it doesn't have to be the way it has always been done. I would like to see many volunteers for the various positions while the older members are able to be advisors and help guide the newer members as they lead the guild. Please think about this. We do have some new faces and that is great. Lucille has done a wonderful job with the website, Milli has a handle on the Treasurer's job and Peg and Angela have certainly made a go of the store. Debbie would appreciate more volunteers for demos. Please let her know techniques and projects you'd be willing to share.

We will be electing new officers at the April meeting and it would be wonderful to see some new faces on the board. Let Sue Mueller by April 20th if you're interested in adding your name to the ballot.

*Gerrie Wolf*

## *Welcome New Members*

Kay Jean Carrillo  
2550 Sweetwater Circle  
Lafayette, CO 80026  
Spirit\_of\_Art@ecentral.com

Donna J. Flebbe  
2391 Lavender Hill Lane  
Lafayette, CO 80026  
flebullfroggulch@msn.com

Catherine Rose Roche  
16525 E. Alamo Place  
Centennial, CO 80015  
croseroche@comcast.net



# Exploring the Rainbow with Tina Holdman

## Collection # 16 - Kato Polyclay Pastels Set I

This coming year I will be using Kato Polyclay instead of Premo clay for our recipe collections. Since guild members get a good deal on Kato clay in our MHPCG store, many have started using it. For my own work I use both Premo Clay and Kato Polyclay & like the unique features of each brand. While Premo has more colors available pre-mixed, Kato does have absolutely beautiful colors and makes for nice crisp canes.

Since Kato Polyclay tends to have a palette of brighter colors, my first collections will include softer colors and pastels. Like a magpie, I like bright and intense colors. However, part of the challenge of using Kato Clay is being able to mix lighter intensity colors.

This collection coordinates surprisingly well. The colors are soft and rich, making for an ideal and sophisticated spring color palette. The Kato Polyclay colors you'll need to mix this collection are: White, Brown, Yellow, Magenta, Orange, Red, Green, Turquoise and Ultra Blue.

### #1 Soft Cream

8 parts White  
1/2 part Brown  
1/4 part Yellow

### #2 Soft Warm Yellow

8 parts White  
6 parts Yellow  
1/2 part Brown  
1/4 part Magenta

### #3 Warm Coral Apricot

6 parts White  
5 parts Yellow  
1/2 part Orange

### #4 Cadmium Coral

6 parts White  
3 parts Orange  
2 parts Red  
1 parts Yellow

### #5 Medium Olive Green

12 parts White  
5 parts Green  
5 parts Brown  
1 part Yellow

### #6 Light Turquoise Blue

10 parts White  
2 parts Turquoise  
1 part Ultra Blue  
1 part Green





Editor's note: One would think that with all the glorious colors and techniques available, polymer clay enthusiasts would be content simply to mix and blend, texture, mold and embellish. However, seldom satisfied with things are they are, creative artists have been adding inclusions to create new effects and amazing imitations. Both solid & liquid translucent clays are an ideal showcase for herbs, spices, glitters, embossing powders and even chopped crayons.

Marian Gurnee has been conducting her own experiments with inclusions and has an impressive collection of baked clay samples. She generously shared the following information based on her experiences.

Different embossing powders produce different effects on clay. Some create stonelike looks, some just a wonderful new color, and some contain glitter. I use only translucent clay for inclusions but any color of embossing enamel would be great for a surface treatment. For example, Verdigris rubbed on copper clay mimics the natural patina that occurs on real copper.

When applied to on an unbaked clay surface, some embossing enamels create a glassy effect, some leave a texture, some a combination. After baking the surface can be sanded for a different effect. I've successfully used Ranger Distressed Embossing Powders in Verdigris and Fired Brick.

Although Ranger and Stamp 'n Stuff (aka Stampendous) are the brands we find in our local stores, there are a few other interesting products available on the internet. Some I've found useful include Copper Kate, PSX (no longer produced but worth looking for on E-Bay), Creative Living, Creative Experience, Hampton Arts.

I'm currently working on adding to my real samples using the first Ranger embossing powder 'recipe book'. I will also be adding other recipes from various resources and some of my own experiences with ink and spice inclusions. (Nutmeg is one of my favorites.)

An excellent book for those interested in surface treatments or inclusions using embossing powders & alcohol inks is Clay Techniques to Dye For published by Design Originals. ([www.d-originals.com](http://www.d-originals.com)) It has wonderful projects as well as samples of embossing powders worked into the clay.

I've found the best ratio for inclusions is no more than 1 tsp. per 1 ounce of clay. If you want to make several samples, I suggest you cut a 1 ounce block into 16 equal pieces & add one 'smidgeon' (1/3 of an 1/8 tsp.) of inclusion. This will give you enough to make a nice flat sample. I use an 1" oval cutter & also make a roundel bead. It helps to have both because the clay appears different in flattened and shaped forms.

I recommend you try some creativity with these new clays you mix. Think about how striking the ones with glitter would be in mokume gane. If you add only half the recommended inclusions and don't mix it thoroughly, you get a marbled look that is great alone or in mokume gane. Also, use one of your mixtures as an element in swirl beads.

Some of my personal favorites include; Ranger Verdi Gris, Mustard Seed, Dried Marigold, Antique Linen, Butterscotch; Stupendous Chocolate Brown, Jade Green; Copper Kate Sunburst and Tropical Tan.

I wholeheartedly agree with the nationally known clay artist who said: "The difference between an experienced polymer clay artist and an inexperienced one is that the work of the experienced artist will have colors that don't come out of the package."

Editor's note: Thanks, Marian, for sharing your expertise with us. We look forward to seeing your samples next Clay Day!



## Exploring Inclusions with Tina Holdman

This special recipe collection is for those who really want to go all out experimenting with adding texture as well as color. While this project is somewhat messy, the complex richness in texture is well worth the effort. I use an 1/8 tsp. for both the embossing powders (EP) and the alcohol inks (AI). You could use these mixes to make faux rocks or to add a nice border on a more complex cased jewelry piece.

### Terra Cotta Red

1 ounce Translucent Clay  
7/8 Tsp. Adirondack Cranberry AI  
2/8 tsp. Ranger Rich Red EP  
1/8 tsp Ruby Red\*  
1/8 tsp. Light Ruby Red\* (EP)

### Rich Brown

1 ounce Translucent Clay  
1/8 tsp. Distress Walnut Stain EP  
1/8 tsp. Distress Vintage Photo EP  
1/8 Tsp. Ranger Copper EP

### White Speckled Light Green #1

1 ounce Translucent Clay  
3/8 tsp Adirondak Moss EP  
1/8 tsp Distress Antique Linen EP  
1/8 Tsp Ranger Seaform White EP

### White Speckled Light Green #2

1 ounce Translucent Clay  
3/8 tsp. Adirondak Moss EP  
1/8 tsp Distress Antique Linen EP  
3 tsp Ranger Seaform White EP  
1/16 tsp Adirondak Lettuce AE

### Darker Green

1 ounce Translucent Clay  
1/8 tsp Dark Green Forest\*  
2/8 tsp. Light Green\*  
7/8 tsp. Ranger Antiquities  
Verdigris EP

### Yellow Speckled Old Gold

1 ounce Translucent Clay  
1/8 tsp Distress Old Paper EP  
2/8 tsp Distress Antique Linen EP  
2/8 tsp Distress Mustard Seed EP

\*JoAnne's Metal Pearl EP Collection

## Website Plans - by Lucille Fischetta

I've been working on our website to incorporate a 'members only' section that will require a log-in. Behind the log-in & password you'll have access to our member directory. It will be easy to keep the information current with new members and address changes.

Remember, the first time anything goes into print, it needs to be verified. Please let me know any inaccuracies. I will be sending an e-mail with log-in information shortly.

I've also been studying our website as a whole. Some of it seems redundant and confusing to me. I'm looking to you for some help and will be asking, "What would you like to see?" I've already started combining the Clay Day & Calendar pages.

Here are some other thoughts and ideas for features we can add to our site:

- "A Lesson Learned" This section will contain tips and information of help to all clayers, regardless of skill level. Please forward interesting items to: [webmaster@mhpcg.org](mailto:webmaster@mhpcg.org).

- A list of members who teach classes.

- The Member Focus section will highlight a member each month. We'll be asking everyone to compile a brief biography & photo display. As we do that we'll gradually build a data base for each of us -- our artistic resumes.

Please, I need your help! Thanks in advance.

*Lucille*

# Salute to Gerrie Wolf



The old saying, "If you want something done well, give it to a busy person" is proven right by our out-going Guild President Gerrie Wolf. Gerrie's life is filled with service to her church, her family and friends, and numerous creative pursuits. She is a talented stained glass artist and enthusiastic golfer, bridge player and traveler. Before retirement, Gerrie enjoyed a successful career as a professional educator with the Jefferson County Schools.

Gerrie is a charter member of MHPCG and was a key organizer in our first two mountain retreats as well as countless guest artist workshops. She served several terms as Treasurer and her expertise accounts for our continuing financial solvency. Enthusiasm for polymer clay keeps Gerrie trying new techniques and welcoming changes in products and possibilities.

Thank you, Gerrie, for your dedication to MHPCG!

## On-line Links

[www.craftcast.com](http://www.craftcast.com)

(Interviews with artists about their work.)

[www.cactusjohnny.com/](http://www.cactusjohnny.com/)

(Information on mosaics, including a tutorial for polymer clay tiles.)

[www.windesigns.wordpress.com/](http://www.windesigns.wordpress.com/)

(A blog for sculptors)

[www.meverden.blogspot.com](http://www.meverden.blogspot.com)

(PC artist-author Becky Meverden shares highlights of her new life in Korea.)

[www.bihugelabs.com/flickr/colors.php#](http://www.bihugelabs.com/flickr/colors.php#)

(The "Palette Generator" will create a palette of colors matched to a photograph you scan in.)

[www.CraftTherapy.com](http://www.CraftTherapy.com)

(Explore this extensive site when you have time to spare. It will link you to many intriguing craft areas including a blog directory.)

[www.artist-how-to.com](http://www.artist-how-to.com)

(A good resource for artist e-books and several free pc tutorials)

[www.thatcreativeplace.com](http://www.thatcreativeplace.com)

(On-line classes by leading artists such as Tejae Floyd, Dayle Doroshow & Christie Friesen)

[www.ladymaryann.canalblog.com](http://www.ladymaryann.canalblog.com)

[www.paroledepate.canalblog.com](http://www.paroledepate.canalblog.com)

~~(en parlons français?)~~ You don't need to speak French to enjoy exploring these polymer creations. A picture is worth a thousand words!

[www.blogthings.com/whatcolorisyourmindquiz/](http://www.blogthings.com/whatcolorisyourmindquiz/)

(Take this quiz & find out -- just what color is your mind?)

[www.polymerclaycentral.com/sincereleigh/bead2.html](http://www.polymerclaycentral.com/sincereleigh/bead2.html)

(Milli shared the link to these lovely translucent flower-cane beads by Leigh Ross.)

[www.gerascottchandler.com](http://www.gerascottchandler.com)

(...amazing, colorful, innovative polymer clay art by Canadian artist Gera Scott Chandler)

[www.on-my-desk.blogspot.com](http://www.on-my-desk.blogspot.com)

(...explore artists' studios & marvel at artists' innovative use of space and containers. Question: does your clay area look this inspiring and neat?)

## New Products

### Kato Clay Has Gone Green!

Donna recently posted this news on her blog: "Tony has reformulated our clay and removed the phthalates. We resolved to try to accomplish this task but the clay had to perform the same and we could not lose any of its positive characteristics. If we failed, we would simply not change the clay and would instead print labels with the necessary warnings. Happily, Tony did it and we're now making all the colors. Look for some blow out sales on our old stock as we make room for the new. The clay is softer and easy to condition but not too soft -- I believe it's an improvement all around.

We also changed the size of the package to 2 ounces like the others. Robert designed a great new rack and we have cute little sample packs composed of 4 - 1 ounce packages of KPC in several colors. Also, Kato Clear Medium will soon be sold in colors!"

### Innovative Face Molds

Maureen Carlson ([www.weefolk.com](http://www.weefolk.com)) has designed four rubber molds used to form the basic shapes that make up the face. Polymer clay or other molding medium can be used. The pieces fit together like a puzzle to complete the basic face structure. Because it's so easy to change the exact size and shape of each piece, you can use the molds to create characters that are uniquely your own. The face parts are interchangeable between sets and make faces that are 1.5 to 2.25.

### Magic Gloss

Lisa Pavelka ([www.coveredinclay.com](http://www.coveredinclay.com)) announces a new dimensional gloss for polymer clay, paper and other craft surfaces. It dries in minutes using UV light (direct sunlight, UV Nail Lamp, 40 Watt (or higher) Fluorescent Black Light). No sealant is necessary and the product is odorless and does not shrink. Lisa recommends it for layered, domed, translucent or cabochon effects or for faux dichro or foil techniques. It is re-bakable after curing and can be used to backfill, embed and secure embellishments such as Swarovski flatback crystals. It can be molded in silicon molds & tinted with resin dyes. Best of all, unlike other similar products, it dries in minutes and has few, if any bubbles.

### Hot Off the MHPCG Press: Exploring the Rainbow Recipe Collection

Barb Harper has compiled all Tina Holdman's fabulous color recipes previously published in our quarterly newsletters into a book which will be available for sale at the Retreat. The sixteen themed palettes range from vibrant hues to a set of pastels featuring Kato Polyclay. There are over 100 individual recipes! Used for bead sets, coordinated jewelry, or painting, these recipes will help expand your creative horizons. Bonus features include chart for converting Kato Clay to other clay colors & an information page on color-mixing.

Thanks, Tina, for creating this rainbow of recipes! Thanks, Barb, for compiling the recipes into a book!

## *Guild Store News*

The Guild store will be open on Clay Days from 10:00-11:00 and 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the large meeting room. This will allow the Store Chairperson to participate in demos. Gary Harper has volunteered to help run the store. Note: Hours may be adjusted to accomodate special activities.

Peg Harper plans to place a bulk order with Fire Mountain Gems later this Spring. Let her know items you're interested in buying.

Her e-mail is: [pegharper@comcast.net](mailto:pegharper@comcast.net). Ordering 200+ items qualifies us for the maximum discount & most things can be 'mixed and matched' - in other words our 200+ order can be a variety of things. There is an on-line catalogue at [www.firemountaingems.com](http://www.firemountaingems.com).

Don't forget to bring your useable craft items to the on-going Garage Sale. Proceeds are used to buy store inventory items.

### **Coming Events**

#### Clay Days

April 26th

May 24th

June 28th

#### Retreat

May 2-3

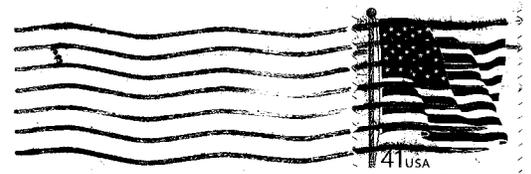
Lockwood Christian Fellowship

#### Tory Hughs Workshop

October 18-29th

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