

Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

January, February March 2008

www.mhpcg.org

President's Letter

Dear MHPCG Members,

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a Happy New Year. I certainly am. I'm especially looking forward to our Recovery Party. This seems to be one of the highlights of the year. For those of you who are new to the guild, I suggest you bring a fair amount of money because there will be things you'll want to buy at the Silent Auction. Our gift exchange is fun and is wide open for things you have made or anything related to polymer clay. The more people involved, the more fun it is for all.

Below is a list of committees for the party. If you're not signed up, please let Susan Mueller know what you'd like to do. (Suemuellersmail@aol.com)

January Holiday Recovery Party Committees

Food/Kitchen: Marian Guerne, Lucille Fischetta, Peg Harper, Caryl Unrein

Set-up: Joanne McGee, Marni McGee, Barb Harper, Patty Moore

Silent Auction: Angela Moore, Karen Sexton, Deb Brooner

Gift Exchange: Maggie Giza, Jerry Hunt

Gallery: Tina McDonald, Sue Mueller

Clean-up: Debbra Woznick, Clare Parmuk, Gerrie Wolf, Sue Mueller

Another reminder if you'd like to be in on the fun: remember to bring an unfinished piece of jewelry to the January party to exchange with someone. The challenge is that the person who gets your unfinished piece will complete it and give it back to you at the February Clay Day. In turn, you will complete someone else's unfinished work of art. Our Program Chair Debbra Woznick is in charge of this project.

Many of you have asked about clay and equipment belonging to Eileen Loring. These things will be available for sale at the February Clay Day. By then, hopefully, we will also have some pieces that Eileen made and also some of the things she obtained from well-known artists. These will probably be available a few at a time as we get them appraised. The proceeds will be returned to Eileen's family.

We have some exciting activities for everyone this year. Some of these will be making useful tools that can be used with polymer clay, making stamps and texture sheets, learning how to clean our pasta machines. We're open for other suggestions, so let Debbra know your ideas. I'm sure the members who attended Clay Carnival last month will have some techniques and ideas to share.

Sincerely,

Gerrie Wolf





Exploring the Rainbow

with Tina Holdman

This color collection is taken from the cover of Sherrill Kahn's book, Creative Stamping. A fellow guild member requested I do a color collection from Sherrill Kahn that used her deeper color samples. And, as many of you know, I am a Kahn aficionado, so this as a fun collection to provide for the newsletter. These colors go well with the Sherrill Kahn Color Colleciton I, aka Sherrill's Sorbets. Combining these two palettes will result in a fabulous range of rich color contrast.

You can use Premo Cobalt Blue, Magenta and Gold straight from the package to expand this color palette. The Soft Orange and Warm Golden Yellow recipes are almost exactly the same, except one has 1/2 part cadmium red and the other has 1/2 part of orange. Since both colors are fairly saturated, the outcome is a bit different. This palette would also coordinate well if you are making polymer clay embellishments for your textile/paper artwork using Jacquard paints.

In any case, i hope you have a good time at the clay table using these recipes to experiment with in your next project. You may want to check out Sherrill's website at www.impressmenow.com if you have not yet done so. Her stamps and books are great and I have a nice collection of both. You may also be interested in Jacquard's website, at www.jacquardproducts.com. Jacquard makes Neopaque and Lumiere paints, Pinata Inks, and our old standby, Pearl-ex.

Russet

6 parts Premo Raw Sienna
3 parts Premo Cadmium Red
2 part Premo White
1 part Premo Orange

Warm Golden Yellow

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

Deep Coral

4 parts Premo Orange
2 parts Premo Cadmium Red

Soft Green

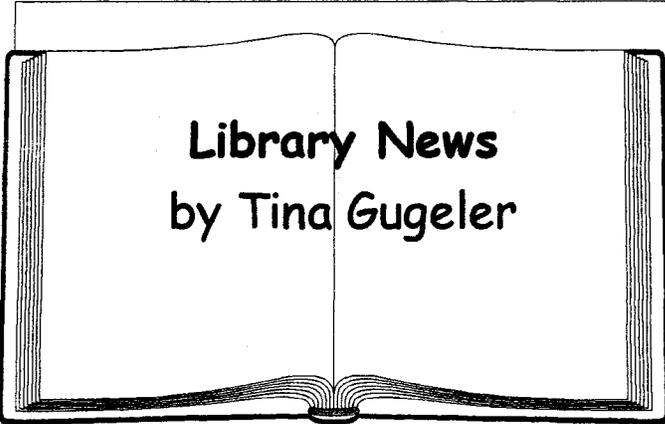
3 parts Premo Sea Green
2 parts Premo White
1 part Ecru

Soft Orange

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

Turquoise

4 parts Premo Turquoise
1 part Premo Cobalt Blue
1 part Premo Green
1 part Premo Ultramarine Blue
1 part Premo White



Library News by Tina Gugeler

The library has several new DVDs: "Millefiori Story" (Judy Belcher), "Arabesque Carving" (Jana Robers-Benzon), "Photo Transfer on Polymer Clay & Cabochones" (Matthew Nix) another on beginning stringing and wire work with beads. We have two new books: Metal Clay: the Complete Guide by Jackie Truty and Mixed Media Mosaics by Laurie Mika. Pati, Moore donated several books including Metal Craft and More for Beaders. Thanks Patty!

Welcome New Members

Carolyn Musick
452 Pontiac Street
Denver, Colorado 80220

Ann Kruglak
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SheilaFurth@sbcglobal.net

MHPCG Store News

We plan to have Gold, Silver, Black, Translucent, Pearl & White Kato Poly Clay available at each regular Clay Day. If you let us know ahead of time which colors you need, we might be able to get them in stock before the next meeting. It's important that you know exactly what you want & that you commit to purchasing those items. We want to have 'fresh' clay in stock so that you need not spend a lot of time conditioning. If you have items you want to try and don't want to buy the entire package, please let us know. I purchased some of the new Easy Leaf product for people to try last month and they appreciated being able to buy just one sheet, not a whole package.

We've experienced some 'shrinkage' with our store inventory. This is a polite way of saying that items have been taken and not paid for. We presume this was an oversight: you pick up an item and get involved in a conversation on the way back to get your wallet and forget to come back to the store to pay for your purchase. Due to this situation we've had to institute a 'babysitting' feature. Each person will be asked to sign up & spend a short period of time sitting at the store table keeping a mental inventory of the items out for sale. If there is someone in our group who is in need of supplies and doesn't have the funds they need, please contact me!
(peg.harper@comcast.net)

Note: The store will not be open at the Holiday Recovery. Even our Store Elves get to celebrate that day!

Peg Harper

Websites Worth Visiting

www.ladyartisan.com

(Dolls, bookart, inspiration)

www.lunaclaydesign.com

www.squidoo.com/image_transfers

www.pcagoe.com

(A virtual craft guild of Esty.com polymer clay artists)

www.polymerclaygossip.com

www.blogthings.com/quizzes

(Provocative questions to answer for insights about yourself)

www.mr.picassohead.com/

(A time-waster, but fun!)

www.steampunkworkshop.com

(A tutorial for etching Altoid tins. Look in the project list on the left side of the home page.)





Etc.

Is that clay extruder tucked into your tool drawer, forgotten and un-used? Here are some ideas & resources that might rekindle your interest in using it for your next project:

On-line tutorial: www.pcpolyzine.com Look in archives for "Rainbow Filagree" by Mia Rox; February 2001.

www.glassattic.com Look under 'clay guns'. We bet there's more information than you'll want to know, including directions for making several pushers for Sculpey or Kemper models.

www.polymerclayexpress.com Read details about their super-deluxe extruders which offer all sorts of options, including bracelet backings, a hole-drilling adapter, and a multitude of discs for making quilt canes.

[Making Polymer Clay Beads](#) by Carol Blackburn
Instructions & photos of beads decorated with extruded strands.

[Ancient Structures and Surfaces](#) by Nan Roch (VHS tape in our MHPCG library) How to weave extruded clay strands into necklaces & bracelets.

Uses for the extruder:

- Try metallic effects. For example, black clay filagrees topped with silver or bronze Pearl-X
- Extrude scrap clay & brush on Pearl-X or Perfect Pearls
- Rainbow varigated: insert 1/2" plugs of yellow, magenta and blue for an interesting strand.
- Metallic clay makes interesting variations if sanded to reveal the inner cores
- Consider covering: pens, silverware handles, journals covers, tool handles, mirror backs, light switch covers, bottles of hope.
- Use filagree pieces as embellishments for pins, pendants, box tops, journal covers, etc.

- Make filagree earrings. Oval shapes are especially attractive. (Brush on Pearl-X for a metallic look.)

- Try filagree on rock or match box pendants. (See www.pcpolyzine.com for instructions.)

- Tip: when joining two strands, cut at an angle and roll gently to adhere the two parts.

- Be sure to re-warm extrusions if they've been sitting around, unused. Some people place the extruded strands on a heating pad set at low and cover them with a towel. Don't overheat!

- Baked extrusions: lay out straightened strands on cardstock and bake for 20 minutes; cut to desired lengths; build design on a thin sheet of unbaked clay. It's OK to have the background show for added color interest. Try placing the baked strands at various angles. See Cynthia Toops' work for more inspiration.

- Use a leadless mechanical pencil or other small object to add textural interest or to hide seams. Roll small balls of clay and insert to fill gaps. Let parts of the sandpaper-textured background show for design interest.

- Create an ivory-colored filagree and antique it after baking. Use burnt umber acrylic paint or a mixture of varathane water-based varnish with a dab of black acrylic paint & bit of gold Pearl-X powder.

Note: Our guild has two Polypress extruders available for rent to members: \$10/month & a \$100 deposit check returned uncashed when the extruder is checked in. See Guild Librarian Tina Guegler for details.

Clay Carnival

by Peg Harper



Clay Carnival was even more exciting for me than last year. Maybe it was because I knew a few more people or that my guild mate Lucille F. was there and we were in the same class. But I had a wonderful, exhausting time!

I've begun to realize that liquid clay is never going to do what I want it to do: be resin! I can get close with some processes but I still want that crystal clear magnification that you get from glass or resin. Knowing that my clutzy self will never get along with a torch, I started investigating the resin process and had purchased a couple of books on the subject. So, imagine my joy when Jacquelyn Lee presented us with her demo: an introduction to PC/Resin Composition! I thought I'd made it to heaven. I managed to get two pieces made and then Jacquelyn gifted me with one of her demo pieces at the Pizza Party on Saturday night. Can't wait to show you what we made!

Kim Cavender taught us a process using leaf, ink pads and translucent clay to create an easy, no hassle palette for faux dichroic finishes. I know I'll use this a lot in the future. The possibilities are endless and the technique totally goof proof.

Marla Falkenberg showed us how to thinly slice translucent/opaque cane wafers so that they only show the opaque designs when they're applied to a background and cured. We used this technique to make tube bead bracelets.

Klew was there to share her vast experience in working with clay. It was an iconic event for me, having been a fan of hers for so long.

Leslie Blackford taught us how to think outside the box as we created our own Magic Beans. Those of you who know my attachment to this form can imagine how much fun that was.

Donna Kato showed us ways to construct and use flawless, perfect, simple geometric cane forms. Well, they're flawless, perfect and simple when she does them and

they're better for me now that I've learned some of her processes.

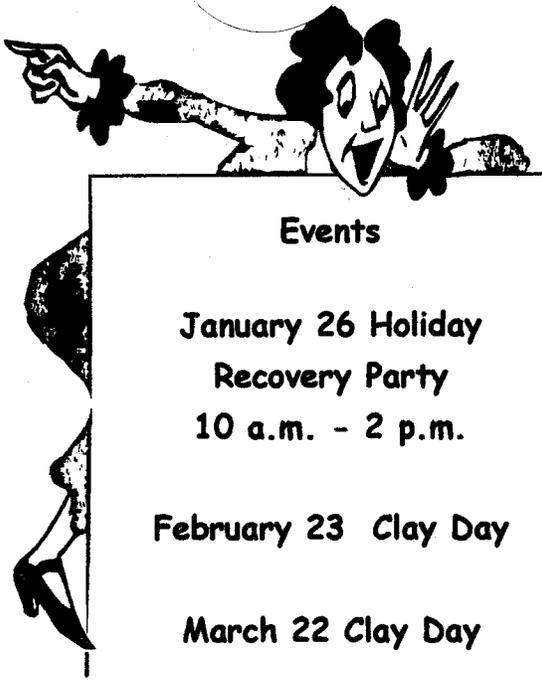
Lucille will have to fill you in on Sue Kelsey and Cathy Johnston's classes because yours truly hit the wall Saturday night and didn't get out of bed until Sunday afternoon. I bought home the instruction sheets and supplies for Sue's paste snowflakes and Cathy's jointed clown pin but have not done the work yet.

In addition to the instructors, there are always other PC celebs and friends floating around. Carol Blackburn flew in from her home in London following her teaching gig with Donna in Istanbul. She signed my book, Karen! Jana Roberts Benzon was there and Bette Abdu brought Jana's video which was hot off the press. Judy Belcher was in town to teach and managed a couple of visits during off hours. It was wonderful to see them and have time for a quick hug if not a full, chatty visit.

The Carnival Store was mobbed! There is talk of holding back some of the artists' work so that late-comers have a chance to purchase some treasures. Since Donna only sells her work to her students it's always a priority for me to get something from her workshop. Since the new Kato Poly Paste is not ready for public sale we got to play with it. There was a good price for Kato Clay and some interesting tools for sale. Betty Abdu from Abba Dabba Productions was offering videos at a discount.

Clay Carnival is enlightening, educational great fun and exhausting! Next year the Carnival will be a week long cruise out of Florida. According to Donna, the '09 Carnival will be in Las Vegas & expanded to four days. This will allow for more sleep, more social time, and two classes on each of the four days. Although the price will be more it will still be a bargain. This year's classes cost \$310 which included 24 hours of instruction & the gala Pizza Party game festival on the final night. You can't beat that with a stick!

-- Peg



Tips

Events

**January 26 Holiday
Recovery Party
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

February 23 Clay Day

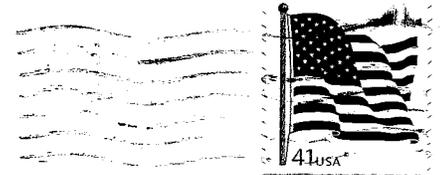
March 22 Clay Day

For moving parts on simple figures, try using fishing swivels. They come in several sizes and in different colored metals: silver, brass & black. Buy the ones without the 'snaps' and then embed one of the balls into the torso & the other into one of the limbs. They allow movement but don't stay posed unless you use clothing to help maintain the pose.

Preferred pen: Many polymer clay crafters like the Papermate Flex-Grip pens for decorating with clay. Unfortunately, the metal tips have been replaced with plastic so you have to take the tip off before baking or it melts! However, because you unscrew the end cap to replace the cartridge instead of using pliers, there is no pliers damage to deal with. Also, the pen base material is tacky and the clay adheres well.

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