



Newsletter

Mile High Polymer Clay Guild

July, August, September 2008

www.mhpcg.org

Happy Summer, Fellow Clayers!

I'm excited about the coming year in our guild life. We have several events in the works and lots of plans for upcoming meetings.

In July we're having a joint picnic in Castle Rock with the Pikes Peak guild. We've reserved a shelter in Rhyolite Park and everyone who can attend is asked to bring their own sack lunch and a salad, snack or dessert to share. We're all encouraged to bring show-and-tell items. This will be a wonderful opportunity to get acquainted with our fellow clayers from "down south". The shelter has excellent access for anyone with mobility challenges.

We have our Tory Hughes workshop scheduled for October 1st & 19th. The details are available on our website and a sign-up brochure is included in this newsletter. First come, first served for this one. You can post-date your checks for September 1st, but get your registration in now!

Donna Kato will be coming to us next Spring as our guest artist for a one day workshop. Details will be announced later. We're trying to decide whether to hold this event as a separate event or try to incorporate it into our weekend retreat. Let us know what YOU want!

Our store sales have been somewhat eclipsed lately by the estate sales that have taken place during clay days. Jerry Hunt has suggested that when one of these sales is offered by a family, that we should hold it at the end of the day, following our regular meeting and demos. The board will be discussing this at our June meeting along with guidelines for these sales.

Just past month the new Kato Clay has been offered and we sold just about all that Gerrie had ordered for the store. PLEASE let us know what you would like to have for sale in the store. We offer Kato Poly Clay because it's difficult to

find in retail stores and we get a great discount from Vernon. We don't stock Sculpey, Premo or Fimo because they're readily available and often on sale at most local craft stores.

Our recent group order from Fire Mountain went well. Five people took part in the order. We spent just over \$500 and SAVED \$480! I'm happy to manage these orders three or four times a year. We'll plan to do the next one in September. Let me know what you'd like to get and where you'd like to order from. Someone has suggested that we go to Rings and Things next time.

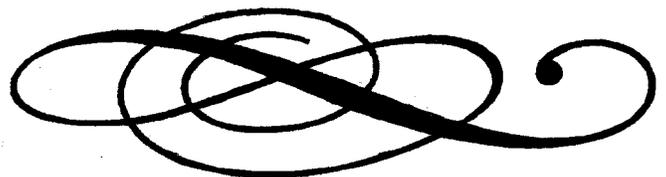
We have several new members and some of them are new to clay. We will be offering a brief introduction to basic claying at each meeting. These sessions will be held right after the general meeting so that anyone who wants to learn the basic skills can attend before joining the more advanced demos. Remember the first time you made a Skinner Blend? We also plan to make sure there are demos and workshops offered involving sculpting and architecture in addition to bead and jewelry making. Many people have expressed an interest in these topics.

Thank you for allowing me to be your president this coming year. I'm available to you all the time at my email address and hope to hear from you about what you want to see happening in the coming months.

Most sincerely,

Peg

peg@harpersound.com





EXPLORING THE RAINBOW WITH TINA HOLDMAN

This color collection is an extension of the last one and should provide you with a very nice set of soft colors made with Kato Clay. All the colors in both collections coordinate well together.

If you really are not the soft color kind of person, then you will just have to suck it up and wait for later collections which may be more earthy, vivid, deep, jewel-like or whatever. I will point out, however, that it's a good thing to get out of your color comfort zone and stretch a little. Really! Really, really!

If you like even lighter colors, add more Kato white. These colors are gentle and amiable to adaption. The Medium Clear Blue is a truly fabulous color and makes a great combination with the pinks. You will need Kato Polyclay in the following colors to mix this palette: White, Magenta, Purple, Brown, Red, Ultra Blue, Turquoise, Yellow & Green.

Soft Rose Pink

6 parts Kato White
1 1/2 parts Kato Magenta
1/2 part Kato Purple
1/4 part Kato Brown

Medium Dusky Rose Pink

4 parts Kato White
3 parts Kato Magenta
1 part Kato Brown
1 part Kato Red
1 part Kato Purple

Soft Light Purple

4 parts Kato White
3 parts Kato Purple
1 part Kato Magenta

Medium Soft Purple

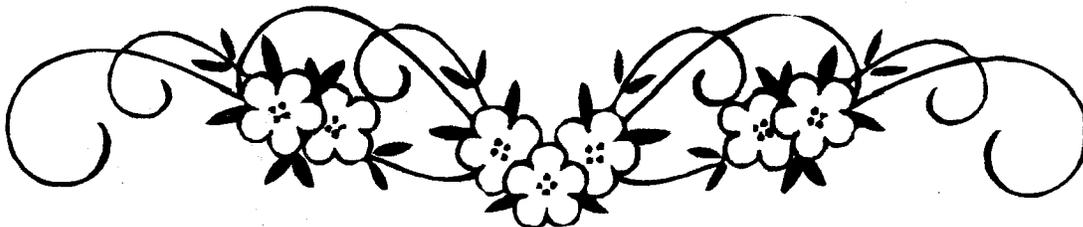
7 parts Kato Purple
5 parts Kato White
2 parts Kato Red
2 parts Kato Ultra Blue
1 part Kato Turquoise Blue
1/2 part Kato Brown

Medium Clear Blue

3 parts Kato White
2 parts Kato Ultra Blue
2 parts Kato Turquoise Blue
1/2 part Kato Purple

Medium Soft Turquoise

4 parts Kato White
3 parts Kato Green
3 parts Kato Turquoise Blue
1 part Kato Ultra Blue
1/2 part Kato Yellow



Welcome New Members!

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New in the Library

(Thanks to generous donations & the sale of Lee Radtke's things)

DVD: Donna Kato's Tips, Tricks &
Techniques for Polymer Clay

Books:

Living the Creative Life
Bead & Wire Jewelry for Special
Occasions
Stringing Style 1
Simply Beautiful Beaded Jewelry
The Art of Bead Embroidery
30 Minute Beading
Exploring the Rainbow
Discover Beading Book
Polymer Clay Basics
Creative Clay Jewelry

The New Clay
Pantone Guide to Communicating with
Color

Kumihimo
Color Harmony-Jewels
Faux Surfaces In Polymer Clay
The Polymer Clay Techniques Book
The Art of Polymer Clay
Elegant Gifts in Polymer Clay
Polymer - The Chameleon Clay
Polymer Clay: Creating Functional and
Decorative Objects
Artists at Work:
Polymer Clay Comes of Age
The Weekend Crafter: Polymer Clay -
20 Weekend Projects

Five Artists - Five Directions
Stamping Polymer Clay & Wire
Color Harmony - A Guide to Creative
Color Combinations
Principles of Pattern Design



Etcetera ...



Karen Sexton

Thinking about crackle finishes ...

In my ever-vigilant search for innovative surface treatments, I recently ran across some pieces I'd crackled a long time ago. Inspired by Tory Hughes' early postage stamp pins, I had been designing pins using foreign postage stamps (generously given me by Barb Harper) and some vintage stamps from a CD collection. The old faded stamps seemed to cry out for an unusual mount that looked equally worn. "Aha!" I thought. "Crackle!" I knew there were commercial crackling paints available, but this was a midnight & beyond marathon and unfortunately, as you know, Michaels isn't open 24/7. I was forced to use what I had and decided to experiment with Future acrylic floor finish.

I rolled ivory clay on the thickest pasta machine setting and brushed on a coat of Future. After it dried thoroughly, I ran the sheet through the pasta machine at thinner settings and was pleased to note small cracks forming across the surface. Burnt umber acrylic paint rubbed over the surface brought out the details. The crackled sheet looked very antique & was a perfect setting for the old stamps. I added a hammered brass embellishment & hung danglers of old-looking beads and faux turquoise chips.

This re-discovery prompted me to explore other kinds of crackle surfaces and here are a few things I found:

- ♦ Mix mica powders (Pearl-X) into the Future before brushing onto the raw surface. Experiment with color combinations. Keep in mind the base clay color.
- ♦ Use Daler-Rowney Pearlescent inks, unstirred. The sludge at the bottom of the jar is colorful & metallic.*
- ♦ Almost any kind of tube acrylic paint will crackle. I especially like the interference colors on black clay.
- ♦ Metal leaf crackles especially well and will produce an almost fabric-like appearance. (Note: be sure to turn the sheet 90 degrees between each roll through.)
- ♦ Apply metal leaf (silver, gold, copper) to a sheet of black clay, then press on a texture sheet. Roll the clay through the pasta machine & see what happens! The result can be adjusted by changing the sheet's direction between rolls or rolled through in the same direction for a striped effect. Screen or other textures with regular patterns work especially well.

*Nationally-known polymer clay artist Elise Winters displays her innovative work done with acrylic inks and paints on her website: www.elisewinters.com. I was fortunate to take her workshop several years ago and am still using this technique with great results. Her stylish & sophisticated work is endlessly inspiring.

Of course there are several commercial crackle mediums that work well on baked polymer clay. These usually come in two parts: a first coat which can be either opaque or clear, and a second coat that's generally applied over the first. The second coat is clear and will crackle while drying. The first opaque layer is most likely paint which isn't needed since we're crackling over the clay. You can use the second, clear-crackling coat over transfers or on baked clay. Rubbing on burnt umber paint after the crackle dries will produce a beautiful antiqued look. Picture a crackled treatment over some of the Dover images or atop vintage photographs. I remember seeing a beautiful pin which had a crackle, antiqued finish on top of rose canes. It was beautiful and very unusual.

Favorite commercial products include: Anita's Fragile Crackle, Delta Ceramcoat's and Jo Sonja's Crackle finishes.

More about vintage clip art:

While pursuing paper arts & art book-making, I discovered several good sources for copyright-free vintage ephemera. Dover Publishers are one of the largest companies producing a huge variety of clip art, most of which are available on CD. You can subscribe to their e-mail samplers which can be downloaded free. (www.doverpublications.com) JoAnn's and Michael's also have a series of colored clip-art/CDs published by Sterling. There are many themed collections: Fairy Tales, Travel, Children, Family, Babies, Borders/Frames, Alphabets & Ornaments, Romantic Illustrations and Vintage Labels from a Lady's Dressing Table (my favorite). And yes, I have them all! (I seldom resist using a 40%-off coupon for a book purchase!)

There are also a number of CDs with vintage art. Tuscanrose.com has several sets available, as does www.vintageart.com.

Signing your work:

Although beginning clayers are often shy about identifying their work, it is a good thing to do. There are a number of ways to sign your work and one of the easiest is using a metallic or gel pen. Most brands work well on baked clay with one caveat: be sure to heat set the piece after the gel ink dries.

Another method is using rubber stamps. Several years ago a friend and I shared a sheet of custom-made Ready Stamps (www.readystamps.com) & I'm still using the cunning little name & initial stamps. We chose fonts that were easily read in a small point size & put together a black copy 7x9" sheet with our names, initials and dingbat designs (as fillers). We mailed this off to Ready Stamps & they returned a rubber stamp sheet as well as the plate & matrix. I glued the individual stamps onto the edges of a 1 x 1" acrylic block which makes them easy to use & hard to lose. More information on preparing an order is at www.polyclay.com/ready.htm.

There are several tiny alphabet sets available at the local craft stores. I especially like the ones that are clear plastic because the individual letters can be arranged on a small plastic block to spell words, a name or initials. The wood-mounted alphabet stamps work equally well for adding your name to your clay masterpieces, one letter at a time.

Other ideas: Make a mold by pressing alphabet pasta or label maker strip with your name or initials into clay. Bake. Or try these tutorials for creating polymer clay stamps: www.artfortheheart.com.blogspot.com/ and www.craftygoat.com (Go to the blog, then use the search engine - type in "stamp your own message in polymer."

K.S.



Congratulations!

Carol Simmons' exquisite kaleidoscope beads won 1st place in Bead and Button's Bead Dreams show. Carol's work reflects her consummate understanding of color and attention to construction detail & finishing. The beads are based on her study of Korean embroidery & are inspiring examples of the very best in polymer clay original art. Well done, Carol! It's great to see your talent recognized in this way!

Milli Barton was recently named Volunteer of the Month at the Table Mountain Animal Center. Milli devotes 6-10 hours several days a week at the shelter and especially enjoys working in the Surgery Utility Vehicle. Although partial to cats, Milli recently participated in the dog enrichment class. We're sure Milli is appreciated by everyone at the Animal Center. MHPCG is very fortunate to have her as our excellent MHPCG Treasurer! Congratulations, Milli!

Thanks!

To Holly Williams for taking pictures at our Retreat & sharing them on CD.
Holly, your enthusiasm and cheerful willingness to help are appreciated!

Websites Worth Visiting

Interactive Colorgrams:

www.livelygrey.com/

Color mixing:

www.wellstyled.com/tools/colorscheme2

For sculpting & doll enthusiasts:

www.feephanie@canalblog.com

www.wildartdolls.com

For inspiration & information:

www.squidoo.com/impressiveclay

www.beadartists.org

www.sparkplugging.com (marketing)

www.lisamariecall.com/projects

<http://enkhene.blogspot.com>

www.tonjastreasures.com

Funkytimeart.blogspot.com

www.crafedonline.com

(on-line classes; e-books)

www.videoelements.com/

(Photoshop Elements Tutorials)

www.lorraine-davis-designs.blogspot.com

www.pcagoe.com



Back to the Basics

Each Clay Day we will have a demonstration especially for our members who are new to clay. At the June meeting, Marian Gurnee showed how to make polymer clay shells and in July Karen Sexton will introduce basic mica shift techniques. Sue Mueller has signed up for the September demo. **We need someone to volunteer for the August slot.** Please let Marian know if you are interested in doing the August Basics demo. You can

choose your own topic or select from the following list: Natasha beads, Mokume Gane, Retro Cane using the Extruder, Swirl lentil beads, making and using molds, etc. We'd also need someone to do a basic sculpting demo.

"Old Clayers" - please let Marian know if you can help with these demos. Beginners -- Please let Marian know what you'd like to learn!

MHPCG Board

- Peg Harper - President (pegharper@harpersound.com)
- Sue Mueller - Vice President (suemuellersmail@aol.com)
- Angela Konikow - Secretary (Angela_K15@hotmail.com)
- Milli Barton - Treasurer (Milb@comcast.net)
- Tina Gugler - Librarian (Tgugler@earthlink.net)
- Karen Sexton - Newsletter Editor (bobwire123@msn.com)
- Program - Debra Woznick
- Immediate Past President: Gerrie Wolf (GerrWolf@comcast.net)
- Webmaster - Lucille Fischetta (Lucki46@comcast.net)
- Swapmeister - Barb Harper (FlyinBarb@aol.com)



Tory Hughes Workshop

"Designing Hinged Pendants" - a two-day workshop for MHPCG Members

October 18th & 19th (Saturday & Sunday)

Hampton Inn - 1st & Union - Lakewood, Colorado

Name _____
Address _____
E-mail _____ Phone _____



Make \$190 check payable to MHPCG & send to:

Sue Mueller
P.O. Box 4629
Breckenridge, CO 80424

*You can post-date your check to September 1, 2008.
Please include your 2008-9 \$30 dues if it is not yet paid.
See class description & pictures: www.toryhughes.com



Hope your dues are
paid!
If not, this is your
last newsletter!



Clay Days

July 26th
August 23rd
September 27th

Joint Picnic with PPPCG

Sunday, July 20, 2008 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Rhyolite Regional Park
1709 Crystal Valley Parkway
Castle Rock, Colorado

Tory Hughes Workshop

Designing Hinged Pendants
October 18th & 19th
Hampton Inn
1st & Union
Lakewood, Colorado

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