

Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

Fall 2011

A Letter from the President

I'm sitting here watching the Broncos vs. Bengals game. It's a gorgeous day; not officially Fall but it sure feels like it today. We've had a quiet summer with no workshops or special events. Fall will be a different story with lots of things to do and plan for.

Sarah Shriver will be with us in October. Friday the 7th, we'll have our evening "Meet the Artist". The workshop is October 8th and 9th. I think we have 14 sign-ups so far and room for a few more.

In November we'll be having our second annual Fall get-together. (Details can be found further on in the newsletter.) This event is more laid-back than our spring retreat. We found last year that it was great fun to have spontaneous demonstrations flourishing among the group. If you want to work on holiday projects or have some time away from the hustle and bustle of the outside world, this is the place.

Start going through your studios and supplies and setting things aside for our silent auction in January. This is our annual fundraising effort along with our Annual Holiday Recovery Party. There's the pot luck, the silent auction and the wacky gift exchange. We have a great time!

We have three guest artists coming in 2012; Laurie Mika, Jana Roberts-Benzon and Christi Friesen. Pretty cool, huh?

I had a terrific time this summer finally creating my first group of mixed media icons a la Laurie Mika. I managed to complete 13 pieces by the deadline of September 1st. I learned so much from this process! I've been having fun creating polymer tiles for about three years and just stashing them away for the "right" time. Finally realized I'd never get it done without some accountability, so I signed up to be a fea-

tured artist for the month of September at The Bead Lounge in Longmont. If you have a project you've been building in your head but you never quite get started to begin to initiate, I'd suggest that you pick a deadline. It works for me.

We have a new magazine to drool over and enjoy. It's called "Polymer Arts" and I've just finished skimming through the first issue. I think it's just great. Our own Angela Anderson is the Research Director. (Go, Angela!) I highly recommend that you subscribe to this one whether you purchase it as an online item or a "real" printed magazine.

We have a couple members I know of who are out of commission. Our Lin Chirico had surgery on her cervical spine this summer. She seems to be healing well but impatiently. Also Bette Lorman had a fall and broke her clavicle the first week in September. It's no fun being a wounded clayer! Karen Green has already created a lovely necklace for Lin from our guild bead jar. Karen's been doing this for us for a while now as well as being our hostess coordinator for monthly meetings.

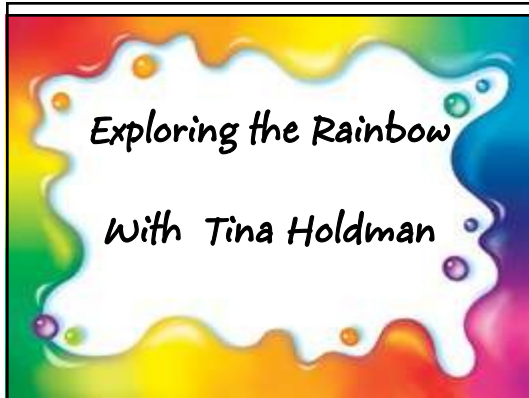
I can sense the urge to scurry around and get things done before the weather turns cold, but it's also a great time to create a Fall color palette. Let's see;

A light yellow-y olive, a vibrant gold, some warm browns.....

Happy Claying,

Peg





This collection was inspired by a wine advertisement in a magazine. The ad style & colors reminded me of the ads from the 1940's and had mostly warm colors with gray and black accents.

Now I will be the first to admit that this is a collection that most of you will not be fighting to get to your work table to mix up. It is out of my personal comfort zone as well and although I like these colors separately, I probably would not have thought to put them together. Oddly enough, they are strangely attractive together. If you love warm colors, especially corals and warm earth colors, you will like, if not love, this collection. If you are more of a cool color person, mix them anyway, it's good to try new things and stretch a bit, but reward yourself with lots of chocolate!

Premo colors you'll need to mix this collection are: White, Ecru, Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Red, Alizarin Crimson, Raw Sienna, Zinc Yellow, Orange, Ultramarine blue, Cobalt Blue & Purple.

#1 Mountain Accent Cream

13 Parts White
1 part Ecru
1/2 part Cadmium Yellow

#2 Mid Ochre

4 parts Cadmium Yellow
3 parts White
2 parts Raw Sienna
2 parts Zinc Yellow

#3 Canyon Coral

3 parts Orange
1/2 part Alizarin Crimson
1/2 part White

#4 Bright Apricot

12 parts Cadmium Yellow
8 parts Zinc Yellow
1 part White
1/4 part Cadmium Red

#5 Wine Ruby

3 parts Alizarin Crimson
1 part Cadmium Red

#6 Blue Gray

6 parts White
2 parts Ultramarine Blue
2 parts Raw Sienna
1 part Cobalt Blue
1 part Purple

Especially for color lovers: subscribe to <http://www.design-seeds.com/> and receive several color combinations in your e-mail box daily. Based on color photos, the color sets are guaranteed to inspire you! Thanks, Leanna Englert, our member from Austin, Texas, for sharing this site.

Make It Take It Retreat

November 4th & 5th, 2011

Lockwood Christian Fellowship

Friday noon-9 p.m. Studio Time
(overnighters welcome!)

Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Studio time, demos, brown-bag lunch,
show & share.



Plan to join us for our "Holiday Prep-Together" as we make gifts for holiday giving. There'll be both scheduled & impromptu demonstrations and many opportunities to share ideas. Extended studio time will be just what we need for getting a head start on making special gifts for all occasions.

\$10 (Includes Friday night supper.)

Reserve your space NOW:

Send \$10 check made payable to MHPCG to:

Sue Mueller
20 W. Ranch Trail Morrison, CO 80465



Etc.



"There is a nice free tutorial on Alice Stroppel's blog about gluing a polymer clay cuff bracelet to a metal blank. Go to http://polymerclayetc.com/?page_id=236 & choose the video tutorials tab. Watch this tutorial: How to Attach Your Polymer Clay Artwork to a Metal Bracelet Blank." Bette Lorman E JL

Thanks, Tina Gugeler, for sending the following information:

For simple B&W transfers, try using a "Chartpak" brand blender pen P-0 (201). It is xylene based and can be found at Meininger's Art Supply off 6th and Broadway, Denver. The Pentel blender pen won't work because it is alcohol based. Sniff the two pens, your nose can tell the difference. You want the ones that smell bad like the Sharpie markers!

See video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayMMeviJx-E> for a good video on using the pen.

You can transfer images on raw clay and cut and shape, bake clay, or transfer an image to be carved into the clay or carving block.

Also, Hobby Lobby is carrying a line of "Velvets" silkies rubber cord. It has only 2 per package instead of 3 (\$2.99) and they are just a bit longer than the rubber Silkies.

Dan Friedlander, MHPCG artist in Boulder, has been accepted into the juried Open Studios tour this year and invites you to visit his home/studio to share new designs and old favorites. Open Studios is the first two weeks of October: October 1st & 2nd and October 8th and 9th from Noon to 6 p.m. An opening reception is scheduled Friday, September 30th, from

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Boulder Library. Art from each of the 126 participating artists will be displayed. See details at <http://www.openstudios.org/> Visit Dan's website to view

Bracelets Revisited: (from Beading Daily@interweave.com)

1. Sizing bracelets: Most people wear about a 7 1/2" or 8" bracelet, but that size can vary widely. When creating bracelets for retail, make fewer styles with a couple different sizes. Think about your clientel—are they teenagers or 'mature' women?

2. For individual sizing: touch your thumb tip to your pinkie tip & measure around the widest part of your hand.

3. Cuffs: Measure your wrist above the hand at the point where your ulna & radius meet your metacarples. In other words, the widest spot above your wrist where the sticky-outy bone protrudes.

4. Charm bracelets: Most people like to wear these so they drape across the top of the hand. Make the measurement about 1/2" to 3/4" below the point where your wrist meets your hand.

Websites worth visiting

<http://craftystorage.blogspot.com/>

Check out this blog for a marvelous collection of studio organization ideas. Ikea, here I come!

http://www.polymerclaycentral.com/cyclopedia/color_recipes.html

This site lists readers' contributions of a variety of color recipes.

<http://bisenkan.livejournal.com/>

Don't be daunted by foreign-language blogs. This site shows that "A picture is worth a thousand words ..."

<http://craftstew.com/>

This site offers information on a variety of crafts, including polymer clay.

<http://polymerclaychameleon.blogspot.com/>

Although discontinued, this blog has videos depicting polymer clay creations & an extensive list of other pc blogs. The artist's current blog is: eugenascrations.blogspot.com

<http://www.jewels-by-jules.com/free-wirewrapping-metalsmithing-tutorials.htm>

<http://art.jewelrymakingmagazines.com/>

Loads of information from back issues, including brief videos demonstrating polymer clay and wire working basics.

<http://www.jewels-by-jules.com/free-wirewrapping-metalsmithing-tutorials.htm>

Excellent free tutorials on basic wire techniques; other tutorials for a minimal cost. I found this site through the Paramount Wire newsletter—worth signing up for! KS

http://polymerclayetc.com/?page_id=236

This site has many video tutorials. *Thanks, Bette Lorman*

<http://claybykim.blogspot.com/p/tutorial.html>

Bet you'll enjoy this well-done tutorial showing how to make an unusually attractive flower necklace.

<http://www.artfire.com/users/DesertRubble/blog>

This link is for everyone who just can't get enough steampunk! *(Peg Harper, please note!)*





Tina's Treasures

Editor's note: Tina McDonald has generously offered to contribute information, websites and ideas she gleans from strolling the internet. She hopes you will send us treasures you discover so we can include them in our future newsletters. Thanks, Tina! Thanks, everyone! Karen Sexton

I had a lot of fun at the retreat. Sue Mueller did the Lazertran demonstration, but I was a little leary of the \$2.00 a sheet price tag for the Lazertran. Barb Harper was kind enough to try to walk me through her image transfer technique involving laser printer toner images with the paper baked with the clay. I'm not sure what I did wrong, or if my personal laser printer or paper were just being temperamental, but it didn't work for me either. And I hate the rubbing wet paper technique because of the fuzz, so I went on a search on Youtube and various blogs. There were countless ones on the wet rubbing paper method, several on Lazertran, but one that I watched was on using baking parchment paper. Yes, the same thing you bake cookies on. The technique was developed/discovered by Valerie Haroni. The link to her site describing the method, which I will try to briefly summarize here is at the website:

<http://valerieaharoni.com/2008/12/those-elusive-transfers.html>

I tried it with my Samsung color laser printer, but many inkjets are also supposed to work. Canon's inkjets are apparently the most temperamental, and Valerie has tips on using the Canons on her site.

You take a sheet of baking parchment (and from personal experience a piece from the roll of Reynolds Baking Parchment may cause a paper jam or two, but does actually transfer, so you might want to tape it to

cardstock). You print on it with either a laser or inkjet printer. Place the ink/toner side down on a piece of raw clay and burnish well.

Carefully lift up a corner to see if the ink/toner has transferred. If so, lift up the paper, if not, carefully lay the corner back down and burnish more, then lift up the corner again. I literally spent less than 2 minutes from the time I printed the image, walked to my worksurface in the other room, burnished on already conditioned clay, and lifted the paper. I do believe I have found PC Image Transfer heaven. Easy Shmeezy!!!

You can order the parchment paper from:

http://www.etsy.com/listing/43966475/paper-for-transfers?utm_source=cr8tivitycomfornewap&utm_medium=api&utm_campaign=api

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Peg Harper's Icons



Here are just a few pictures of the impressive icons from Peg Harper's recent triumph—a solo-show of her work at The Bead Lounge, Longmont Colorado. Each is a wonderful study of textures and colors skillfully composed to reflect a theme. Laurie Mika, who inspired Peg's work, will return to do a second workshop for us in the Spring. Congratulations, Peg! You are an inspiration to us all!



Porcelain Clay by Tina McDonald

Having dealt with a wedding this summer, I was reminded how much cake decorating gum paste has in common with Polymer clay and even more closely, the "newer" air dry or cold porcelain or "craft porcelain" clays. Of course, one huge advantage to clays is that making gum paste and royal icing decorations for a wedding cake are often followed by sugar ants, so I'm thrilled with coming back to just Polymer Clay and the air dry clays. Cold porcelain, or *porcelana fria*, as it is called in Spanish, has a huge number of South American artists using it. Depending on the clay brand (or home-made recipe) the material can be extremely hard and durable considering how delicately thin it can be rolled. Members who like sculptural work might be interested in the following web sites, since the air dry clay is often less expensive than PC & more economical to use in working out preliminary designs.

<http://www.decoclay.com>

<http://www.air-dry-clay.com>

A couple of monthly publications featuring the cold porcelain clays can be found at CP Works:

<http://www.celcrafts.co.uk/CPWorks.htm>

Porcelana Fria by Buenvinidas digital archives at

http://www.bienvenidas.com/publicaciones/1-manualidades/2-porcelana_fr%C3%ADa

<http://www.fiestacraftpublications.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=21&osCsid=8ec6d2ea680505caaf964689b289a96d>

The Spanish magazines have a lot of step by step photos for those of us who are not bilingual.



Rocky Mountain Weavers' Guild Annual Fiber Arts Sale

October 20-22, 2011
Englewood Civic Center

Unique, different & fun. Creative Original Textile
Gifts to ware or for the home.

Weaving, Felting, Crocheting, Spinning, KInitting,
Jewelry, Quilting, Basketry, Silk Paining, Kids'
Stuff.

More info: www.rmweaversguild.org



Sarah Shriver Workshop

October 8th & 9th Hampton Inn, Lakewood, Colorado



"Fun New Big Beads with a Touch of Silver"

www.mhpcg.org for more class information
Contact Susan Mueller about registration
(Suemuellersmail@aol.com)

Eileen J. Loring Polymer Clay Guild presents:

A one-day workshop with French artist

Sylvia Pernaud

Sylvia will share her mosaic technique with an enameled look, along with tips, hints & options for using this unusual process.

Cost: \$100

Location: First Lutheran Church, 3rd & Terry, Longmont, Colorado

Meet the Artist reception for all members, Friday evening,

November 18th

Workshop November 19th

Mail checks made out to EJL Polymer Clay Guild to:
Glo Weimern, 6609 Debra Dr., Ft. Collins, CO 80525
(Space is limited! Postdate checks November 1st, 2011.)



CLAY DAYS

Saturday, October 22, Saturday, November 26th (no meeting in December)

MAKE IT TAKE IT EXTRAVAGANZA

November 4th & 5th

Lockwood Christian Fellowship, Florida/Union, Lakewood, Colorado