

Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter Summer 2012

President's Letter

Hi everybody. I'm really pleased and honored to be president of such a great guild. I've received a lot of encouragement and learning opportunities since I joined six years ago. I actually joined the guild before moving here so that I could attend the Kathleen Dustin workshop. Since my presidential campaign did not involve debates and negative advertising, many of you may not know much about me. I think I've been playing with polymer clay for about 10 years but don't really know when I picked it up. I got most serious working on a fundraising project for a young girl who needed a heart transplant. My daughter's Girl Scout troop (and moms) made polymer clay pendants and sold them. I was hooked.

Since then, I've been trying to find my style. To date, I think I have 746 styles, oh wait, maybe it's actually 747. Seriously, I like to try everything. As a result, my studio is a wreck. It's reached the point that I've had to stop and organize. I've stopped organizing to write this piece. I'd much rather being doing something than organizing.

On a personal side, I've been married for nearly 30 years to the same guy and have two beautiful daughters. One just graduated from Drexel University in Philadelphia and the other is a sophomore at Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA. Don't ask me why both girls went to Pennsylvania. I can't explain it other than to say Pennsylvania colleges have excellent taste in students. I have 2 cats and a dog. The newest cat, Sweet Pea, is very interested in clay and makes a number of contributions to my work including fur and footprints.

To support my clay habit and put my kids through school, I work for the Colorado legislature analyzing legislation and estimating what each bill would cost to implement. I also help write the blue book that you'll be receiving in October. That part on legalizing marijuana—I helped write that. The job offers a lot of variety so it's hard to get bored and I get to work with a lot of really smart and passionate people. I am non-partisan staff so I have to remain unbiased which can be a challenge but helps me keep political bumper stickers off my car.



Peg Harper handing over the gavel to our new President, Clare Pramuk.

Peg Harper handed over the gavel to me at our fantastic retreat. I won't be banging it until the July meeting and hope to see you all then. I have an open e-mail policy (by the way, that's a play on the term on open door) so please contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas you have for making the guild even better. I have a new e-mail address that doesn't have 25,000 plus unopened e-mails in it (I'm not kidding). It's claremade@gmail.com.

Happy claying y'all.

Clare

Christie Friesen Workshops

October 12 & 13, 2011

Lockwood Christian Fellowship 1354 S. Union, Lakewood, Colorado



In the Garden—Saturday

Friday, October 12, 2012

"Fee Fi Faux Fabulous!"

Join award-winning Christi Friesen in this one-day class experience. You'll learn sculpting techniques, gain experience & insight into the principles of design and composition, and explore the use of mixed media to enhance your polymer clay creations.

In this class you'll create multiple sculptural pieces in floral, animal and decorative themes. Then you'll work with metal coatings, patinas & dyes using 'Swellegant' & other products, to create a faux metal finish as well as glaze & powders to create a faux metal & a faux enamel look. This is an exciting process—you're going to love it!

All materials are provided & all skills levels are welcome.

Saturday, October 13th
"In the Garden"

Think "Garden" in this class since you will create sculpted leaves & flowers as well as butterflies. But wait, there's more. You will also create polymer 'stained glass' pieces that can be worn as jewelry or displayed as wall pieces. The stained glass look incorporates the use of surface treatments such as foil, glitters & films to add richness to the look. You will also explore tricks for creating sketches to use as patterns for your stained glass creations.

All materials are provided & all skill levels welcome!



Fee Fi Faux Fabulous—Friday

You may sign up for either one or both days.

Send your check to made payable to MHPCG to: Susan Mueller 20 W. Ranch Trail, Morrison, CO 80465

Members: One day \$75 (Indicate Friday or Saturday) Two days \$125
Non-members: One day \$90 (Indicate Friday or Saturday) Two days \$140

If you've never met Christi Friesen, check out her videos posted on You Tube. Google: "Christie Friesen on You Tube" for the list. Here's a link to the first one:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLELRzpR5L8 You'll get an idea just what an endearingly humorous artist she is & how effortlessly she demonstrates constructing her awesome pieces.

As a follow-up to Tina McD's button article in the last issue, we discovered this site, dedicated entirely to polymer clay buttons: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/polybuttonsgalore/>



And if you have a bevy of buttons created from leftover techniques lying about in bags or boxes, consider building a bracelet using this excellent free tutorial:

<http://hopestudios.blogspot.com/2009/07/tutorial-tuesday-button-bracelets.html>

Have you discovered the site devoted to Jewelry Display Ideas? <http://www.jewelry-display-ideas.com/> The companion blog is interesting, too: <http://jewelry-business-blog.com/>

Readers are invited to send in their ideas, so there is lots of variety! The only distraction is that not everyone sends pictures of their ideas.

An example on the right shows an earring display made of copper pipe. Looks easy!



MHPCG Board of Directors:

President: Clare Pramuk
Vice President: Susan Mueller
Secretary: Kathy Ham
Treasurer: Sherilyn Dunn
Librarian: Tina Gugeler
Program: Debra Woznick
Webmaster: Laura Schiller
Newsletter: Karen Sexton

Coming Events

Saturday Clay Days:

July 28th, August 25th.
September 22nd

Christi Friesen Workshop:
October 12 & 13th
(Friday & Saturday):

Fantastic Poker Chip Swap:
September 22nd Clay Day



Exploring the Rainbow with Tina Holdman

COLOR RECIPE COLLECTION - SUMMER DRESS

This collection of colors came from an Art magazine that showed fabric samples in its project. I was musing about how the fabric swatch would make a lovely summer dress, as it had flowing flowers in this design on a cream background.

This collection has one dark color, a deep raspberry shade which goes with the Just Pink nicely. It has a mid tone orange red, the Medium Reddish Coral, which provides a wicked contrast to the Old Wasabi, Deep Robin's Blue and the Just Pink, depending on your taste. And last but not least, this collection has four lighter tones; these are the Just Pink, Old Wasabi Green, Deep Robin's Egg Blue and the Yellow Green. Some project ideas for this collection would be using the applique flower technique, flower canes, or Bargello technique.

Premo colors you will need to mix this collection are: White, Turquoise, Candy Pink, Pomegranate, Blush, Denim, Alizarin Crimson, Black, Purple, Ultramarine Blue, Wasabi, Rhino Gray, Spanish Olive and Sunshine.

#1 Medium Reddish Coral

2 parts Premo Candy Pink
1 part Premo Pomegranate

#2 Just Pink

4 parts Premo White
1 part Premo Blush
1 parts Premo Candy Pink
 $\frac{1}{4}$ part Premo Denim

#3 Darkest Raspberry

2 parts Premo Alizarin Crimson
2 parts Premo Blush
 $\frac{1}{4}$ part Premo Black
 $\frac{1}{4}$ part Premo Purple

#4 Deep Robin's Egg Blue

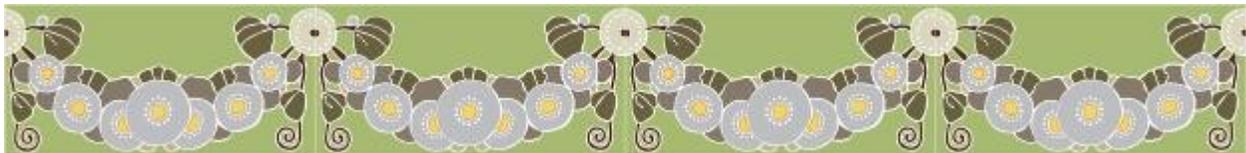
4 parts Premo Turquoise
2 part Premo White
1 part Premo Ultramarine Blue

#5 Old Wasabi Green

4 parts Premo Wasabi
2 parts Premo White
1 part Premo Rhino Gray
1 part Premo Spanish Olive

#6 Yellow Green

1 part Premo Wasabi
1 part Premo Sunshine





The Fantastic Poker Chip Swap

That's right! Your crazy Swapmeister is back again for another beatin'. (Just joking!) This swap will happen at the September 22, 2012 Clay Day. This time not Spring but Fall colors are at play. Here's what we'll be doing:

Theme: Fall Colors

Poker Chips: 1" minimum to 1 1/2" maximum in diameter

How many: Right now, 10 chips (This may change; we'll let you know how many people sign up.)

Sign up for the Swap: July 28th meeting (my birthday, heaven help me!)

If you wish to make your chips into buttons, beads etc., that's fine. We're asking members who have created poker chips or have received chips as part of an event, to bring their examples to the July & August meetings for inspiration and information. Actually 'seeing' polymer clay chips will give us all some ideas & help our 'newbies' see how to create them.

For more information, please contact Laura J. Schiller at laura@lauraseggs.com.

Tina McD. sent this list of websites featuring ideas for poker chips. It may come in handy as you're figuring out what to make!

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/edelchen/3996701726/in/pool-1207400@N25>

<http://www.flickrriver.com/groups/claycarnival/pool/interesting/>

http://www.flickr.com/photos/magic_toscana/3996053402/in/pool-1207400@N25

http://athousandmidwestflowers.blogspot.com/2011_09_25_archive.html

<http://cathyjohnston.net/?cat=4>

<http://aungst.net/PICT0020.JPG>

Looking for borders to enhance your polymer clay art? Tina McD. suggests collecting thrift store items not rather than commercial molds made especially for clay. These 'found' items are very inexpensive and scouting for them is like a treasure hunt. Tina said she found old picture frames with wonderful textures along the sides. At 69 cents each, and a little Amazing Moldmaker, she has created great border molds for bezels.



The Cutting Edge by Karen Sexton

Canadian Artist Dan Cormier has always inspired me. Not only does he create art that is impeccable and unique, but he contributes a high standard of excellence in the polymer clay world. Along with his bright, enthusiastic partner, Tracy Holmes, Dan has developed innovative tools helpful in replicating his techniques & has travelled extensively to teach his methods to clayers world-wide. Most recently, the team has collaborated in writing a beautiful e-book detailing the techniques.

When I wrote Tracy to ask if the e-book was compatible with my i-Pad, she replied immediately that it was. She explained that while writing the book, she worked on their computer and Dan on the iPad, assuring that the material would 'fit' both devices.

The next day, Tracy e-mailed to say she'd been looking at our MHPCG website (I was glad it was 'new' and 'improved' - thanks, Laura) and noticed we were having a retreat. She offered to send us a very generous door prize! Leone Moyse was the lucky winner.

You might want to spend some time at Dan's website (dancormier.ca). It's filled with information about the e-book, special tools and his inspiring art work.

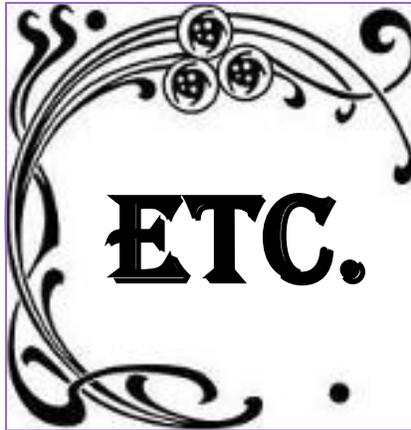
Thank you, Dan and Tracy, for your generosity & for sharing your expertise through the innovative new book!



Leone Moyse was the lucky winner!



See other Retreat pictures in our website's History section. Note our special guest, Sage Bray, front right. Shay is the Editor/Publisher of the new magazine, From Polymer To Art, an outstanding quarterly publication which delights & inspires us. Check it out: (<http://thepolymerarts.com/>)



Milli Barton has an idea for those who need help in getting cards & gifts off to friends & family. Watch this video for the solution! www.sendoutcards.com/milli

Milli uses proceeds from this enterprise to help support her contributions to the Foothills Animal Shelter.

She volunteers countless hours to this worthwhile cause.

Craft Art Edu is adding new classes regularly. The list of art projects & artists is amazing. What a wonderful opportunity to learn right in your own home, at your own pace, for much less than workshops usually cost. Best of all, *you can go back again & again to review the techniques.* Pet Montieth tells me that

Vernon is working to make the site compatible with iPads. Meantime, she uses an ap (Swifter) & simply pastes 'CraftArtEdu.com' into the Swifter browser bar so that her iPad can access classes.

Clay Carnival news is posted on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Clay-Carnival-Las-Vegas/143330999067954>. It will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 18 - 21st at the Imperial Palace Hotel & promises four days of non stop clay fun. This year's teachers are Sarah Shriver, Dawn Schiller, Wendy Wallin Malinow, Natalia Garcia de Leaniz, Kim Cavender, Judy Belcher, Leslie Blackford & Donna Kato.

Congratulations! The June issue of Polymer Café Magazine has outstanding articles by two of our MHPCG artists: **Laura Schiller** (A Bear in a Basket Full of Flowers) and **Maria Clark** (Cherry Blossom Pendant). Back issues are available on the Poymer Café.com website.

Tina Gugeler's art jewelry has been pictured in the recent issues of Polymer Art Magazine. **Jainnie Jenkins'** work was featured on PolymerClayDaily.com.

And speaking of websites: Our illustrious & industrious webmaster **Laura S.** sends along the following info about our new, improved website: *"On the History page there are small pictures of each recent event. If you move your cursor over the words you'll see them light up. If you click on the words or the small picture, you'll be taken to another page with all the photos taken at that event. You'll also find the same thing happens on the Artists of the Guild and Gallery sections.*

"Only three members have their personal nformation posted & you can tell who they are because their names light up & are underlined. At risk of sounding like a broken record, please send me information about YOU! (bio, awards, honors, publications, hobbies, travels, interests, pictures of your clay projects, etc. etc. etc.) We have such wonderfully talented members, sharing our information will make our website ever so much more interesting." Laura Schiller

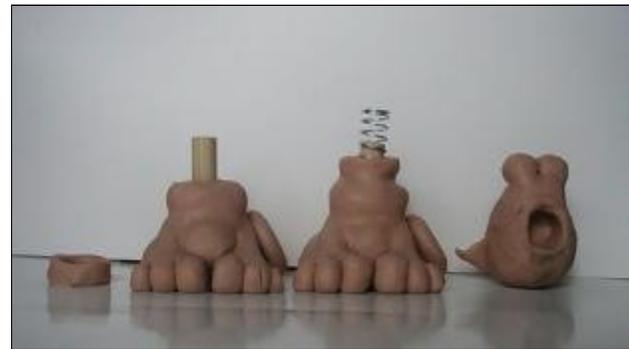
Have you visited the Eileen J. Loring Guild's new website? It's another of Laura's creations. Also—take a look at EJL President, **Wendy Billings'** delightful blog Jazzydoodle.com You'll enjoy seeing pictures of her new studio, equipped for both scrapbooking and polymer clay.



Tina's Treasures by Tina McDonald

My mother loves brooches, especially the rhinestone ones. One of her favorites is a butterfly that I bought for her at a bead renaissance show in the 1990's. In an ingenious design: there are springs that attach the wings to the body. As mom walks, the wings move on the springs, causing the wings to flutter. It's the same principle as bobble head dolls (or "noddlers" as some people call them). These brooches are called "tremblers", and were introduced in the Victorian Age.

It's interesting that with such a fun design style, I haven't found any polymer clay jewelry items that use the principle. I have found two non-jewelry polymer clay items that use or discuss the trembler principle. The first is a sculpture that was a finalist in the 2011 Bead Dreams Contest. http://www.firemountaingems.com/galleryofdesigns/jewelry_design_gallery.asp?docid=B927



The second is a noddler. Above is the best picture I could find.

For a reference as to how the tremblers work, here is a front and side view of a trembler brooch. Now, where can you find the springs for this? Well, take apart a ball point retractable pen. Or, for even tinier springs, you can either make your own coil or use compression springs for model railroads. Caboose Hobbies at 500 S. Broadway, sells them. And you can cut them down. I would probably thoroughly imbed the spring, or glue it in with epoxy. Maybe not a feasible thing for a swap, but wouldn't it be a great idea for a challenge to bring to a meeting and show off what you came up with using the trembler design?



Happy Claying,
Tina



A Book Review by Tina McDonald

Unlightened with Enlightened Polymer Clay:
Artisan Jewelry Designs Inspired by Nature by Rie Nagumo

This is one book you might want to look at before buying. We have a copy in the guild library. The beautiful necklace on the cover lured me into ordering it but the text raised more questions than it answered.

One of the many reasons I'm disappointed with this book is that the instructions are in the back of the book & not with the projects pictured in the front section. There are no illustrations included with the instructions and all of the projects are missing steps that are essential for a beginner or intermediate clayer. There are confusing icons that mean things like "conditioning" and "forming" so if you come back to the book a couple months later, you may have to spend a bit of time figuring out what the icons stand for. The instructions are written in very small print and anyone with 'over 40' eyes or other vision problems will need a magnifier. The materials for each project are sketchy. For example, the author doesn't even mention what gauge wire to use. Then there's the confusing use of the word 'bond'. It is used throughout without any information about what material to use (liquid polymer? PVA glue? Superglue? Raw clay to raw clay?) And in case you haven't seen recent demos by Bette and Tina G about how to get the translucent clay much thinner than the thinnest pasta machine setting, you'll be disappointed if you try the projects using just the thinnest setting. You'll learn more about making the necklace featured on the cover by closely examining Tina G's version.

More Treasures from Tina McDonald

At the March guild meeting, I was telling Tina Gugeler about my plan for those infamous hollow puffy heart beads that I managed to burn to a crisp. I mentioned getting candy molds at Cake Craft (4101 S. Broadway) which I used to form the beads. She asked me if we could go after the meeting, and who am I to deny my driver a shopping trip? Bette Lorman joined us, and the two went crazy with candy molds and other texture items. There are literally hundreds of candy molds available.

For those of you who like to do the flower sculptures, there are molds, cutters, and books on gum paste flowers. I like the books by Claire Webb or Alan Dunn for larger flowers. For miniature flowers see Barbara Quasts book on Amazon.. http://www.amazon.com/Making-Miniature-Flowers-Polymer-Clay/dp/0891348212/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1336884158&sr=1-1. For step by step video instruction on some larger flowers, check out Elaine MacGregor's videos on Expert Village channel on Youtube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKy95AmumJo>. Remember when looking on You tube, that there is an air drying homemade clay with a similar working consistency to gum paste or polymer clay called cold porcelain or, in Spain, porcelana fria. You might not be able to understand the words in the Spanish videos, but you can get ideas from just watching. After all, all you'd see on TV these days