

Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

Summer 2013

mhpeg.org

President's Letter

Greetings Guildmates,

I've been traveling a lot the past two months and haven't touched clay since shortly after Doreen Gay Kassel's class. I did finish up my skinny legged pig, "Ms. Pig". Doreen really got me looking and working with clay differently. Oil paint on clay yields some marvelous results. In July I will be taking classes with Sandra McCaw and Jeffrey Lloyd Dever in Maryland at the Master Class Camp. I hope to have a lot to show from those classes.

I have been spending a lot of time worrying about the wildfires in our state. I know several people who have been evacuated from their homes recently. Many of them know people who have lost their homes. One friend, who still has her home, told me she was at peace with losing her home if it happened because she had the time to choose what she wanted to keep. That gave me a new perspective on my own possessions, what I would really not want to lose and what I could live without. After family, pets, artwork, musical instruments, computers, and photos, I think I would probably grab my Dream Machine on the way out the door. That garage full of stuff wouldn't even warrant consideration. Hopefully I can turn this perspective into a less cluttered house.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our summer retreat.

Happy claying,





Fall Workshop with Laura Tabakman

Friday, Saturday, October 4 & 5

Lockwood Christian Fellowship Lakewood, Colorado

Friday: Surface Design & Textures for Polymer

Laura says: "Polymer Clay is a fascinating, versatile material. So many finishes, so many textures, so many possibilities." The emphasis of this class will be on learning an array of surface techniques to be applied to polymer clay. Students will experiment with stamps, texture plates, metallic foils & powders, inks & paints, metallic & translucent clays. They will learn about ink crackling, mokume gane, batik, antiquing & how to use different materials for surface effects, how to use markers & pencils before & after curing as well as finishing by sanding and polishing. By the end of class, students will assemble their own samples into jewelry. Most likely there will be time to create several pieces. This class is suitable for students of all levels.



Saturday: Organic Polymer and Wire

In this class students will explore many ways of combining polymer clay & wire. Even when wire is used as a purely structural element, the piece is better served by using it as an integral part of the design. The addition of wire can give a piece a range of visual expression, from organic to a very slick look, from delicate to strong, from shiny to rusted. It can connect the different elements, help add movement to a piece, strengthen a union or be used as an armature. Wire can serve as hinges, jump rings, closure mechanisms, bails, etc. Students will learn how to use wire as individual design elements as well as different kinds of findings for necklaces, earrings & brooches. They will even sew wire to polymer, experimenting with different gauges for different purposes. The principles learned can be applied to any scale, from jewelry to sculpture. If time permits, there will be some demos on sculpture applications of the techniques. On the polymer aspect, we will be focusing on form. The class will be working on a series of organic elements that will be used to construct jewelry, exploring different ways of shaping the elements, using inks & translucent clays to create a set of simple canes that can be used in different arrangements. The class is suitable for students of all levels.



Send post-dated September 15, 2013 check made payable to MHPCG to:
Sue Mueller, 20 W Ranch Trail Morrison, Colorado 80465

One day: MHPCG member \$130 Non-Member \$150

Both days: MHPCG member \$180 Non-Member \$200

Please indicate: Friday _____ Saturday _____ Both Friday & Saturday _____

(Note: tuition includes a \$5.00/class materials fee.)



See Laura's work at her website <http://www.lauratabakman.com/Index.htm> and on her [Flickr site](#).

Note: MHPCG is offering two free workshop days to members. Details about having your name put into the 'hat' for the drawing will be sent via e-mail. Be sure to sign up if you're interested! If you have already registered & your name is drawn, you will be credited for one day and your tuition refunded.

ETC.

Have you ever wondered which brand of polymer clay is most translucent after baking? Ginger Davis Allman reports on an experiment she conducted making just that comparison. Her results are posted at: <http://thebluebottletree.com/which-is-the-clearer-translucent-polymer-clay/>

Here's a good way to use Natasha beads to make attractive tool handles:

<http://thebluebottletree.com/hand-drill-tools-with-natasha-bead-handles/>

(Ever since Peg's demo I've been looking around for ways to use the Natasha technique for things other than beads. Thanks again, Peg, for sharing your expertise!)



Exploring the Rainbow with Tina Holdman

Behr's Intense Warm Palette #1

This collection was inspired from Behr's intense color paint chips and carry Behr's name choices for the colors they match. This collection is a rather bright and cheerful one, with nice warm colors to add to your collection of recipes.

While overall, I tend to favor cool colors, sometimes a girl needs a bit of color that livens things up a bit. These colors would contrast nicely with some mid-tone to dark cool colors as well as with a fall color palette with some browns and greens. This palette, used all together will remind you of the hot days of summer when the sun is out and a cold drink should be in hand. So grab a cherry limeade and start mixing!



#1 Citrus Splash (S-G-370)

3 parts Premo Cadmium Yellow
1 part Premo Sunshine
 $\frac{1}{4}$ part Premo Wasabi

#2 Instant Delight (S-G-330)

4 parts Premo Cadmium Yellow
1 part Premo Sunshine
 $\frac{1}{4}$ part Premo Wasabi
 $\frac{1}{4}$ part Premo Orange

#3 Mango Madness (S-G-280)

1 part Premo Orange
1 part Premo Sunshine
1 part Premo Cadmium Yellow

#4 Startling Orange (S-G-230)

3 parts Premo Cadmium Yellow
2 parts Premo Orange
2 parts Premo Sunshine
1 part Cadmium Red

#5 Dragon Fire (S-G-240)

2 parts Premo Cadmium Red
2 parts Premo Orange

#6 California Poppy (S-G-160)

3 parts Premo Orange
1 part Premo Cadmium Red
1 part Premo Alizarin Crimson
1 part Premo Sunshine
1 part Premo Pomegranate



Here's a dandy [tutorial](#) detailing how to create this shawl pin:

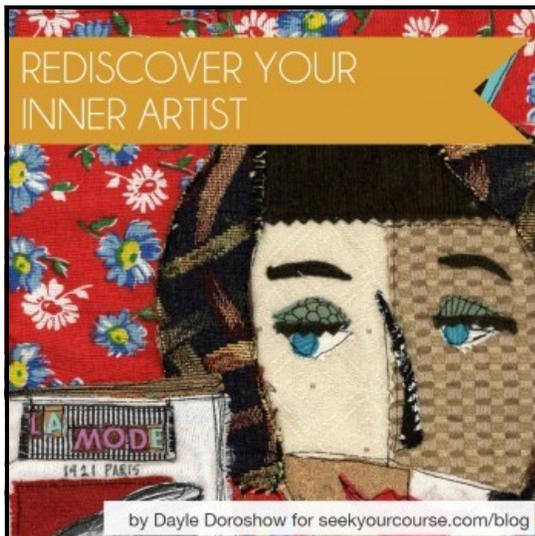
<http://www.eskimimimakes.com/2012/05/fo-and-tutorial-polymer-clay-shawl-pin.html>

Other tutorials on this site include knitting projects and a three part tutorial on photographing your work.



If you're a multi-interest crafter & haven't yet discovered Lori Allred's Pinterest site, check it out & become one of the 15,000 readers! <http://pinterest.com/allreddesign/> (Yes, polymer clay is included in the amazing collection.)

You may want to explore the countless 'pins' she lists for a variety of crafting topics, including a collection of ways to use t-shirts. At the Retreat, Tina G. will be demoing ideas for creating polymer beads & embellishments for the t-shirt necklaces & scarves. <http://www.mycraftchannel.com/Shows/Inspired-by-Pinterest-with-Lori-Allred/T-Shirt-Necklaces-and-Scarves/>



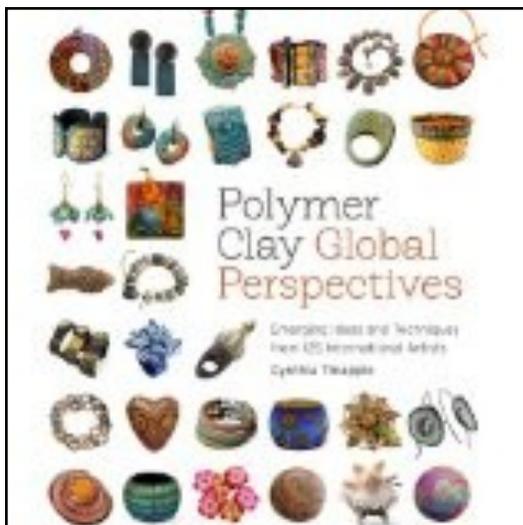
The [Seek Your Course](#) blog offers interesting insights into the ever-present challenge of creativity. The [June 18, 2013 post](#), Art Later in Life—A Second Gift, written by polymer artist [Dayle Doroshow](#), seems especially pertinent. The first step, "go to your studio and make art", is often daunting. Dale offers some practical suggestions for making regular studio time productive.

The blog archive offers other guest artist posts, interviews, tutorials and topics relating to all aspects of creativity. Set aside some time & explore this blog: <http://seekyourcourse.com/blog/>

LIBRARY NEWS

If you're interested in developing or improving your photography skills, you'll find our new DVD *How to Photograph Your Jewelry* helpful. Produced by Lapidary Journal's *Jewelry Artist* publication & featuring veteran photographer Jim Lawson, the 100-minute video presents a clear, orderly explanation of techniques & tips. You'll learn how to set up your light source, use fill cards & gradient backgrounds, & many other essential skills which assure photographing your polymer clay art to the best advantage.

Worth Waiting for



<http://polymerclayglobal.com/> Here's a link to information about Cynthia Tinapple's new book featuring the work of world-wide polymer artists. It's available at Amazon.com in both traditional & Kindle formats.

Check out Cynthia's new companion blog

<http://polymerclayglobal.com/blog/>.

It has information about her new book and the thirteen featured artists including Colorado artist, Tejae Floyd. The links to

115 other international polymer artists will keep you out of the summer sun for endless hours of inspired exploring.

Laura does it again!



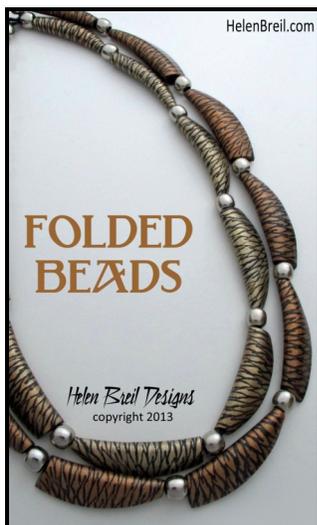
MHPCG's ebullient Webmaster/Swapmeister Laura Schiller has just launched a new blog via Facebook. You'll see her studio, featured in a recent issue of Polymer Café magazine as well on-going updates of both her polymer and egg art creations.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/456270507722568/>

On-Line Learning Opportunities

By Karen Sexton

I recently gave myself a wonderful gift: Israeli polymer artist Iris Mishly's Cosmic Ceramic tutorial. It included a set of well-produced videos demonstrating each technique and project. They are on a private website easily accessible via password, available 24-7 & viewable on both my iPad and PC. In addition, I received a CD of the lessons, PDF files with lesson details & photos, & a box of items useful in creating the faux ceramic look. It was a wonderful buy and the quality of the video demonstrations is outstanding. It's like sitting right across the table from the artist as she shows how to create the faux ceramic finish & construct the various projects. Iris has many other tutorials available & some are free! <http://www.polypediaonline.com/>



Canadian artist Helen Breill shares her unique textured jewelry via tutorials and a recent e-book. I'm impressed with not only her flawless artistry but her generosity in providing several free tutorials. Her most recent, folded beads, is via video and is a true gift to polymer artists everywhere. Thank you, Helen.



Coming Events

Summer Retreat: July 12 & 13th

Clay Days:
July 27th, August 24th
September 28th

Laura Tabakman Workshop
October 4th & 5th

MHPCG Board of Directors

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The Cat Swap was a big success & the collection reflected an impressive array of creativity and talent!

Sue Mueller's whimsical cat (at left) is here to remind you that ***DUES ARE DUE NOW!*** Pay before September 1st to receive the once-in-a-lifetime discount (\$15.00).