

Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Spring 2014 Newsletter



MHPCG Spring Retreat

Friday & Saturday, June 6th & 7th, 2014

Theme: Exploring the wonders of Mokume Gane

Lockwood Christian Fellowship 254 S. Union Lakewood, Colorado

Plan to join us for this fun-filled weekend as we explore this versatile technique. Mokume Gane is virtually the 'little black dress' of polymer & can be elegantly glitzy or down-to-earth ethnic, depending on colors, designs & inclusions. It can be used for jewelry enhancements or to cover everyday objects such as flatware, frames, coasters, book covers, etc. Friday evening and Saturday demos will present techniques and ideas for creating Mokume Gane & studio time will provide us opportunities to use and share our new skills. You'll end the weekend with your bag of tricks filled to overflowing with ideas!

Friday

- ◆ Noon: Gather for social time & set up work space
- ◆ 5:30 Dinner
- ◆ 7:00-9:00 p.m. Demonstration
- ◆ Friday night: bring your sleeping bag for a slumber party or drive home & sleep in your own bed.

Saturday

- ◆ 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- ◆ 8:00 a.m. Open studio & demo
- ◆ 12:30 p.m. Lunch & Group Photo
- ◆ 1:30-3:00 p.m. Open Studio & demo
- ◆ 3:30 Project sharing; photos
- ◆ Clean-up (everyone!)

Since this is a cooperative event, participants will be assigned to help. Please indicate your preference: Set-up ___ Kitchen ___ Oven Wench ___ Surprise me! _____

Name _____ E-Mail _____

Will you attend the Friday night dinner: Yes No

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

Retreat registration: \$20.00 (includes food & GOOD TIMES)

2014-15 Dues: \$15.00—if paid before September 1st.

Questions? Contact Kathy Ham @ passionfruitdesigns.com.

More about Mokume Gane



Pinterest has dozens of mokume gane projects & tutorials; a Google search will also elicit many examples and tutorials. There are also a number of YouTube videos varying in quality. One of the best is done for the Dick Blick site & will appeal to both beginners & experienced clayers:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7GhSClq8O4>

If you're wondering just what can be done with a block of mokume gane, you may enjoy watching this coaster project also presented by Dick Blick:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcLkNgGgpKk>

Most basic polymer clay how-to books contain descriptions of this technique & our public libraries have many of these in their collections. Our own MHPCG library also has many books available for check-out. (See the list of our books on the mhpcg.org website.)

Didjāknow ... Mokume Gane had its origins in 12th century Japan. It was a metal-working technique used to create wood-look embellishments for Samuri sword handles. There are several YouTube videos demonstrating the mokume gane technique done with sheets of metal.

Here's one for a heart pendant: [Yohttp://www.jewelrymakingdaily.com/blogs/daily/archive/2011/01/14/make-a-mokume-gane-heart-pendant.aspx](http://www.jewelrymakingdaily.com/blogs/daily/archive/2011/01/14/make-a-mokume-gane-heart-pendant.aspx)



EXPLORING THE RAINBOW WITH TINA HOLDMAN

Gold Metallics

This color collection was the result of challenging myself to mixing a fairly diverse collection of golden metallic shades using the newer Premo accent metallic colors. Since there are now three Premo gold metallic colors, I thought it would be handy to further expand the golds for use with other metallics. Gold is usable with almost all color combinations and is one of the most neutral metallics offered.

I gave some of the recipes names that closely matched Pearl-Ex colors, since

many of you are quite familiar with those shades. There is also a bonus seventh recipe, just because I am fond of all of you. These golds would be nice to use to make frame colors and with Laura Mika tile icon work. There is a nice variety of colors, especially if you combine them with packaged gold colors.

Premo colors you will need to mix this collection are: Gold 18K, Antique Gold, Bronze, Bright Green Pearl, Copper, Pearl and Silver.

Deep Aztec Gold

2 parts 18K
2 parts Antique Gold
1 part Bronze
1 part Copper
1 part Premo Gold

Aztec Gold

1 part Gold
1 part Pearl
1 part 18 K Gold

Brilliant Gold

2 parts Gold
1 part Antique Gold
1 part Bright Green Pearl

Antique Gold

4 parts Pearl
1 part Gold
1 part Bright Green Pearl
1 part Antique Gold

Light Sunset Gold

3 parts Copper
2 parts Antique Gold

Sunset Gold

6 parts Bright Green Pearl
2 parts Premo Bronze
1 part Copper
1 part Silver

Bronze Gold

1 part Bright Green Pearl
1 part Bronze
1 part Antique Gold

President's Letter

Hi Everyone,

It's hard to believe spring is here, especially with the snow storm we had today. We had a really good meeting today. Instead of bringing a load of tools, I brought a very small amount of supplies; five packages of clay, a slicer, a work surface and some round cookie cutters. I've been wanting to make a squiggly black and white cane and it was the perfect size project to do during a meeting while chatting with fellow guild members. It's great to see so many members bringing their clay and spending time together. The raffle for a gift card doesn't hurt either.

The plans for the spring retreat are coming together. I've been playing around with mokume gane, the technique we'll be doing at the retreat, so that I'll be ready to do a demo. Of course for me playing around also means I'm buying new supplies to share during the retreat.

Happy claying,

Clare

Check out our mhpcg.org Website for these important changes:

A complete list of MHPG library books & DVDs & VHS tapes is in the library section. Also included in this section are library procedures.

- On the Future Events page, the refreshment volunteers for each meeting are listed (If your name isn't on the list & you'd like to help, contact Karen Green - GreenYakJewelry@gmail.com)

- Also in the Future Events section is a list of demos for this year's Clay Days. If you'd like to share a technique or project, let Deb Woziak know! We always welcome demos!

Thanks, Laura, for your continuing efforts to keep our website current!

MHPCG Now A Member of 40 West Arts District

By Sherilyn Dunn

As of March, the Guild has become a member of 40 West Arts District. This means all guild members have membership rights to 40 West, including exhibiting rights during the Members Exhibitions and discounted submission rights for juried exhibits throughout the year. We can attend special events and have our brochures displayed and available at the gallery. This also gives all of us "opportunities to meet, connect, toast, and collaborate with other local artists." We will also receive advance notice of calls for submission for upcoming exhibits. The guild will also receive additional promotion, both at the gallery and in 40 West publications.

The current exhibit at the gallery is "Vintage Colfax - Yesterday and Today." In April, there may be a Members' Exhibit that we will be able to participate in. In addition, in June, they are opening a Hubcab display, made up of artwork built on and around hubcaps. The Call for Entry is available on the website at http://www.40westarts.org/Home_Page.php. Hubcabs can be purchased at the gallery or you can get them wherever you'd like. Grab a hubcap and get to work! The deadline for entry is May 30, 2014!

The Arts District was created to bring new life and vitality to the West Colfax corridor through the arts. Their philosophy is that the presence of art and artists can only raise the quality of life in a community. Past projects have included giving input to RTD on the art displayed at the railroad stations on the West line, particularly at the Lamar Street Station. They are participants in Project: COLorFAX, a coalition of Lakewood and West Colfax associations and business owners committed to bringing murals to the West Colfax corridor. They have a gallery at 1560 Teller St. where the exhibits are held. About a year ago, The Edge Theater moved into the same building as the gallery, bringing performing arts into the neighborhood.

Recently, 40 West has partnered with ArtSpace, a non-profit organization that builds and manages buildings constructed to provide low-cost housing and studio space for artists as well as classrooms, rehearsal halls, and storage space for community use. ArtSpace is exploring the possibility of building such a building in Lakewood, a boon to the burgeoning arts community here. If they do, the guild could have access to low-cost classrooms for times when the church is unavailable, in addition to storage space if we need it. You can help by taking the survey at <http://www.artspacelakewood.org/survey/>. This is a real opportunity for the guild to make a difference in the community where we meet!

Our membership in 40 West brings many benefits and opportunities to our guild. Visit their website at www.40westarts.org for more information. Plan on visiting the current exhibit and introducing yourself as a member of the guild. Pick up a hubcap and show your creativity! And don't forget to take the survey!

Thanks, Sherilyn Dunn, for researching and presenting this innovative opportunity for us!



*Review: Barbara McGuire's Shimmering
Gold Mokume Gane*

By Sherilyn Dunn

I recently watched this to learn Mokume Gane and review the DVD for the guild. I am peculiarly suited to this task because, frankly, I am a relative newcomer to clay and therefore pretty ignorant of many things. I know a little bit more now! As most of us know, Barbara McGuire is one of the pioneers in polymer clay. Her teaching method is very clear and concise. She leads you through a relatively complex technique in thirty minutes. Thankfully, DVDs can be paused and re-started many, many times! She

teaches how to apply alcohol inks to translucent clay, then layer it with more translucent covered with gold leaf. After texturing the many layers, she demonstrates how to slice off the top layer of the stack to reveal the magic underneath.

I worked through the DVD twice and came away with some pretty beads, an unique sculpted piece, and lots of interesting leftovers. I discovered that slicing off that top layer is amazingly challenging! I enjoyed learning the techniques and will probably try it again in the future.

Marian Recommends **Marian Gurnee** is one of our resident gurus regarding all-things-polymer, so when she speaks, I listen! She recently mentioned her enthusiasm for Marie Segul's new book *The Polymer Clay Artist's Guide: A Directory of Color Mixes, Textures, Faux Finishes & Surface Effects.*

It is a treasure-trove of techniques and one that is interesting and informative for both new and experienced clayers. Although not a 'let's make one like this' project book, it is a reliable & extensive source for ideas & information. Author Marie Segul is a California artist who has been a leader in the polymer art world for many years. She worked with Polyform to develop Premo! Clay & is credited with countless other innovations. We were fortunate to have her as a special guest at our very first mountain retreat in 1998! One evening she held us spell-bound as she demonstrated her polymer clay magic. This book is in our guild library but you may want to add it to your reference collection.

K.S.



"Radiant Orchid blooms with confidence and magical warmth that intrigues the eye and sparks the imagination. It is an expressive, creative and embracing purple—one that draws you in with its beguiling charm. A captivating harmony of fuchsia, purple and pink undertones, Radiant Orchid emanates great joy, love and health." Visit the Pantone website to find out how this color was chosen Color of the Year & watch a video interview with Pantone Color Institute Executive Director Leatrice Eisema.

*Annual Taste of Louisville Event
Saturday June 6, 2014 9 am. To 4 p.m.*

This juried event is hosted by the City of Louisville and includes food, music, children's activities, art and other vendors. It's an opportunity for polymer clay artists to sell their work to the 5,000 expected attendees.

The booth cost is \$35 for Louisville Art Association members, \$50 for non-members. The booth size is 10 x 10 outdoors (You must provide your own tent.)

There will be 30 art booths, only 10 for jewelry.

Contact Ann Kruglak via e-mail (dreamce@usa.net) or phone (303 443 2310). Application is by e-mail only. Jurying is by website (preferred) or .jpgs attached to the application e-mail.





It's not too late ...

to sign up for

Donna Kato's Workshop

Graphic Black & White Canes,

Half-pod bracelets & Pins

Saturday April 19th

Interested? Contact Sue Mueller:

Suemuellersmail@aol.com

Future Events

Clay Days: Saturday, April 26th

Saturday, May 24th

Saturday, June 28th

(See mhpcg.org for demos)

Donna Kato Workshop April 19th

Spring Retreat: June 6th & 7th

MHPCG Board

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