

# Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

January-February-March 2005

[www.mhpcg.org](http://www.mhpcg.org)

Volume 9 Number 3

## HOLIDAY PARTY EVENTS

Silent Auction  
Gallery of PC Art by Members  
Gala Gift Exchange  
Pot-luck Luncheon

The **Silent Auction** is our major money raising project and its success depends on members' participation. Some of us bring a desirable piece of our own work and many of us bring unwanted tools, books or other clay-related items in good condition. The more the better! Remember: one person's junk is another person's treasure.

Examples of popular items at past Silent Auctions include: findings, instructional books or videos, dental tools, jars of beads, texturing devices, cutters, rubber stamps, bead rollers, storage containers,

The **Gala Gift Exchange** usually takes place after lunch. Participants draw numbers to determine the order in which they choose a gift. The choice is either a wrapped gift or a previously opened gift, in which case the person whose gift was taken gets to select another. Due to high spirits and time, we limit "stealing" a specific gift to three times. Popular gifts include



something new (tools or other polymer clay item) or a very special original polymer clay creation. (Imagine getting something made by one of your favorite MHPCG artists!)

**Luncheon:** MHPCG will provide ham, rolls, butter, beverages and members are asked to bring a salad or dessert.

**Gallery:** We'll have special tables set up on which you can display your polymer clay creations or other things you've made. It's inspiring to see the incredible variety of member's work! You may sell/buy displayed items and artists act as their own cashier.

**Guests are welcome!** Bring a friend who's interested in polymer clay! Don't miss this day-long, exciting special event!



## THE PREZ SAYS .... BY TINA HOLDMAN

Congratulations! You made it through the holiday season reasonably sane and are no doubt looking forward to some quality time with your clay. The holidays remind me of my grandmother and the many summers and holidays I spent on her farm. She would have my sisters and I sit under the old maple tree and watch "the dark come in". We would watch as the sun left the sky and the dark came down in layers. This collection of colors was inspired by the many variations of the night sky, trees and grass, so you, too, can "watch the dark come in" using your clay. The limited variety of colors is made up for by the quantity of shades. If you haven't yet begun a color sample collection, these mixes will give you a good start on the cool side of the color wheel. So, light up the fireplace, make a hot toddy (or two), warm up the pasta machine & explore this luscious palette of blues, purples & greens.

### Dark Sunset Blue

This is a medium dark purple blue which comes into the sky after sunset but before full night has come.

4 parts Premo Ultramarine  
1 part Premo Turquoise  
2 part Premo Ecru  
1/2 part Black

### Purple Dusk

Imagine this clean medium purple as you snuggle with your sweetie as the dusk turns into night.

2 parts Premo Cobalt Blue  
2 parts Premo Ecru  
1 part Premo Purple

### Desert Night Sky

This is a rich medium tone purple that's the color of the night sky over the desert in Southern California.

4 parts Premo Purple  
2 parts Premo Cobalt  
2 parts Premo Ecru  
1 part Premo Turquoise

### Blue

This is a medium tone blue that is a little less intense than cobalt.

It blends well with the other colors & is a yummy color to add to your basic palette if blue is a favorite.

3 parts Premo Cobalt  
2 parts Premo Turquoise

### Light Warm Turquoise

This is a light, slightly greenish turquoise that blends well with the other colors in this collection.

3 parts Premo Turquoise  
2 parts Premo Ecru

### Soft Limey Green

This is a nice, brighter green that is close to the shade of my grandmother's one acre lawn.

2 parts Premo Green  
2 parts Premo Ecru  
1 part Premo Cadmium Yellow  
1/2 parts Premo Turquoise

### Soft Grass Green

This is the color of shady summer grass.

3 parts Premo Green  
2 parts Premo Turquoise  
2 parts Premium Cadmium Yellow  
1 part Premo Cobalt  
1 part Premo Ecru

### Light Shadow Green

This color closely matches the maple tree just as the dark starts coming in.

This is the darkest of the three greens offered this time.

1 part Premo Ultramarine  
1 part Premo Fluorescent Yellow

### Rich Warm Turquoise

This is a deeper turquoise that's the color of fields on warm summer nights.

6 parts Premo Turquoise  
7 parts Premo Sea Green  
1/2 part Premo White

## DISCOVERIES

**Makins' Clay** has sets of texture sheets & several new molds. Although some local craft stores carry these products, they may also be purchased directly from:

[www.provocraft.com](http://www.provocraft.com). Ask for a catalogue.

**Sherrill Kahn's Rubber Stamps** are deeply embossed & work well with both polymer and PMC. Sherrill recently added fifteen fabulous new stamp sheet designs to her collection. These include sets which are similar to her original style as well as designs that are fresh and different. Check out these quality stamps at:

[www.impressmenow.com](http://www.impressmenow.com)

**Pearl-X & Opalite Stamp Pads** glow and glisten with iridescent sheen. Pearl-X has a dozen different shades; Opalite makes nine different combinations. The colors are lovely and show up especially well on black polymer clay. These pads can be purchased at local scrapbook stores or from [www.polymerclayexpress.com](http://www.polymerclayexpress.com). We bet you'll have a hard time deciding which colors to buy!

Paper artist extraordinaire Karen Thomas has a DVD entitled "**Fold It**". It's available through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). The clever boxes and gift bags are perfect ways to present polymer clay jewelry.

The Wilson "**Cutter/Embosser**" is a small plastic wheel very similar to a sewer's tracing wheel. It's made of plastic with several interchangeable wheels and is handy for adding texture to raw clay. It can be found in the cake decorating section at Hobby Lobby.

Materials for making faux dichroic glass are available from: [www.ezcraft.com](http://www.ezcraft.com) or [www.sunshinecrafts.com](http://www.sunshinecrafts.com). With just a few ingredients, you can fabricate a very believable imitation which can be wire-wrapped or included into a piece of polymer jewelry.

Tina H. reports that the Kaleidopunch paper punches from E.K. Success offer a variety of designs useful for clay embellishments. The snowflakes can be punched from thin sheets of raw or baked clay & layered to form flower-like designs. Most scrapbook stores carry this line.

## REVIEWS

### Elegant Gifts in Polymer Clay

by Lisa Pavelka

If you enjoy Lisa's distinctive style, you'll enjoy these polymer clay projects. Excellent instructions illustrated with color photos.

### Polymer Clay Inspirations

by Patricia Kimle

Patti presents countless artistic possibilities using polymer clay to create fashionable and attractive wearable art, jewelry & home accessories. Innovative use of fabric, precious stones, and other artistic media makes this book especially appealing.

**Just for children:** Clay Day by N. Javier et al  
LeisureArts Publishers



## INTRIGUING INCLUSIONS

One would think that with all the glorious colors & techniques available, polymer clay enthusiasts would be content to simply mix and blend, texture, and mold and embellish. However, seldom satisfied with things as they are, creative artists have been adding inclusions to create new effects and amazing imitatives. Translucent clays both solid and liquid are the ideal showcase for inclusions and welcome herbs, spices, glitters and even chopped, unbaked clay.

Well-known artist Marie Segal displays a variety of inclusions on her website, [www.clayfactoryinc.com/mixin.htm](http://www.clayfactoryinc.com/mixin.htm). Her samples illustrate that virtually anything ovenproof can be mixed with clay to form a new texture and even, in the case of herbs & spices, aroma. A Californian with garden flowers available year-round, Marie recommends specific varieties which hold their color after baking. A glass votive candle holder covered with translucent clay and dried purple statice and leaves, is an effective example. Translucent & opaque white lace canes can be added for detail.

Glitters are a fascinating addition, the best being those found in the fabric painting sections of craft stores. The essential quality is that they are heat-resistant. The inexpensive glitters found in children's craft

departments often melt, causing unwanted surface effects resembling coconut! The best advice: test before mixing.

Art Institute Glitters are available in hundreds of opaque and transparent colors and can be mixed into clay or adhered to the surface using their special fabric glue. Glick's prisma glitters (ultra fine) work well, as do those available from [www.magicscraps.com](http://www.magicscraps.com). Paper making site [www.Arnoldgrummer.com](http://www.Arnoldgrummer.com) offers iridescent flakes useful for fabricating rose quartz.

Fimo Soft has a variety of metallic clays with glitter already mixed in. The bright green, red, silver and yellow provide clays ready to add glitz to holiday jewelry and other special occasion creations.

Granitex is another clay with inclusions. The soft colors are perfect for southwestern or ethnic jewelry. The only drawback is that the soft fibers make cutting difficult. Granitex does tear well, however, and torn edges best fit informal designs.

For stone effects, try adding embossing powders. Verdigris works especially well. Or chop up those old, dried out canes to make your own inclusion. Old clay can be baked for a scant five minutes, then chopped in a dedicated-to-clay food processor for effective stoneware look-alikes.

Inclusion aficionados suggest a proportion of 1/2 teaspoon of inclusions to one ounce of clay. Roll conditioned clay at medium setting & add inclusions in small amounts. Mix in well before continuing.

Chopped crayons are inexpensive and offer lots of color potential. Analogous colors can be chopped and mixed for color & texture though it's fun to experiment with other combinations. The overall effect can be modified by changing the proportions of dark/light colors as well as how fine the crayons are chopped. It's good to do a sample of mixtures because baking dramatically intensifies and changes the colors.

In her first video, "Tantalizing Translucents", Lindly Haunani created a faux jade by mixing colored craft sand with translucent clay. Other colors can be added in the same proportion (1/2 tsp. sand to 1 oz. clay) for a soft, heathered yarn look. Sample packets of the colored sand are often available at local hobby stores. Since baking changes the colors, experimenting with samples is a good idea.

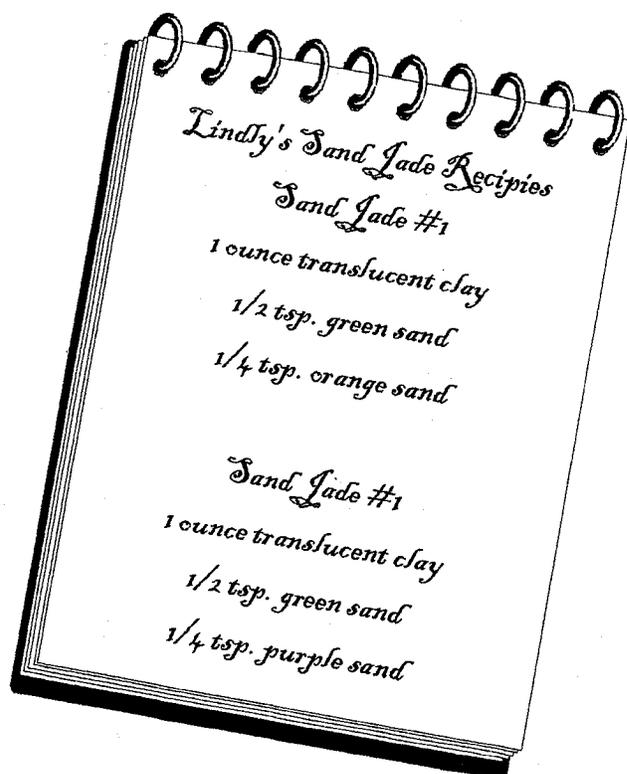
If your kitchen cabinets are overloaded with herbs and spices too old for effective cooking, mix them into translucent clay for ethnic looks. Rubbed sage gives a mossy feel and changes dramatically during baking. Pumpkin pie spice resembles an earthenware clay and curry powder turns the clay a rich, golden yellow. Seeds offer

still other possibilities for textures and visual interest.

California polymer clay artist Desiree McCrorey shared a believable moss agate bead using a sheet covered with black clay speckles and areas of Sparkling Copper Pearl-Ex mica powder. Desiree rolled the clay/inclusions into a spiral before cutting it into football shapes. See her tutorial at [www.home.earthlink.net/~dddmcc/](http://www.home.earthlink.net/~dddmcc/).

Other popular Pearl-Ex inclusions are duo green/yellow for glowing sunlight color, antique gold. The old Fimo Pulver powder produces a lovely faux amethyst.

The message of inclusions is: "Experiment!" You no doubt will make many marvelous discoveries! K.S.



## MEMBER NEWS

### Welcome new members

Kyle Maher  
13948 Eudora  
Thornton, CO 80602  
e-mail: [Kmaher@prodigy.net](mailto:Kmaher@prodigy.net)

Kay Porterfield  
P.O. Box 951  
Englewood, CO  
e-mail: [kmporster@pikespeak.com](mailto:kmporster@pikespeak.com)

### Correction for Loralee Larson:

zip code: 82001-2140  
Phone: 307-637-3637

### New e-mail for Marty Woosley:

[Martywoos@cox.net](mailto:Martywoos@cox.net)

## WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

### Artist Karen Thomas' website:

[www.karenelaine.com](http://www.karenelaine.com)

(Check out her daily weblog under "Secrets" for a moving and poignant diary of recent events in her life.)

### All angel companies, free shipping and a variety of stamp styles:

[www.unmountedcentral.com/](http://www.unmountedcentral.com/)

### Links to caning and other tutorials:

[www.beadyeyedbrat.com/index.htm](http://www.beadyeyedbrat.com/index.htm)



## LEARNING INNOVATIONS

The DVD format used by [www.pagesage.com](http://www.pagesage.com) for their new workshop series featuring well-known paper artist Karen Thomas is truly a giant step forward for learn-at-home artists. With a computer adjacent to the work table, it's possible to start/stop the action with a touch of the spacebar. Directions for gallery designs can also be instantly accessed. Best of all, the camerwork is superb. Tight closeup shots follow Karen's instructions as she succinctly explains and then performs the steps in making books, boxes, gift bags and other folded items.

Other DVDs in this series include stamping/painting fabric by Sandra McCall, stamping techniques by Mary Jo McCaw and altered books by Tim Holt. Lisa Pavelka is slated to make a polymer clay DVD soon!

Producers of polymer clay instructional videos might well take a lesson from the Page Sage folks and concentrate on quality closeup photography, well-planned instruction, impeccable editing & state-of-the-art technology.

Note: Polymer Clay Express is offering their latest-edition videos in DVD or VHS format. Grant Diffendaffer's two-volume set featuring mica shift is available either VHS or DVD.

## CLAY DAYS

JANUARY 22 (PARTY), FEBRUARY 26TH, MARCH 26

The Board meets at 8:30 (everyone's welcome). Bring your clay tools, projects, and lunch. Plan to spend the day creating, sharing, and having fun!



## PRESCRIPTIONS FOR CREATIVE BLOCK

Picture this: you have an entire morning (or afternoon or evening) to devote to clay. The house is quiet, necessary chores are done. You sit down ready to create something wonderful and -- guess what -- The Muse has gone south! What do you do? Well, you're evidently not alone with this dilemma. Here are some ideas shared recently by MHPCG clayers and members of a polymer clay on-line newsgroup:

**MIX** colors. At least you're working with clay and the result will be a useful sampler which may spark an idea or two or come in handy for a future project.

**SORT** -- through your stash of embellishments, beads, rubber stamps, texture materials, or clay. All those treasures are bound to suggest an idea or two!

**DRAG OUT** -- all those unfinished creations. Rework one of them or finish one that shows more promise than you thought it had. Think about how you might do a project differently now. Think about variations on a theme.

**MAKE** some Bottles of Hope. Let the project evolve with no preconceived ideas. Experiment with colors, textures, techniques.

**GO** on a field trip to a gallery or museum or upscale boutique. (A Show of Hands in Cherry Creek North is one of my favorites.)

**BROWSE** through a hardware store or home improvement center. Help yourself to some paint or wallpaper samples. Examine the tools with clay in mind.

**VISIT** a large fabric store like Denver Fabrics or a bijou like D'Lea's. Wander among the colors and textures. Take a look at the fringes, findings and buttons.

**EXPLORE** a Dollar Store and spend \$5.00 on materials to use in unusual ways with clay.

**LEAF** through back copies of jewelry, craft, bead or polymer magazines and books. There's a motivating idea there just for you if you keep an open mind.

**WATCH** recorded segments of the C. Duvall show or a pc techniques video.

**CLIP** pictures, colors, words that appeal. Make a collage. Examine the colors you've used and relate them to color mixing.

**SURF** artists' websites. Their links will lead you to some inspiring and surprising places. For example, art quilting sites offer color and design inspiration. Try these: [www.layersofmeaning.org](http://www.layersofmeaning.org)  
[www.contemporarycloth.com/a](http://www.contemporarycloth.com/a)

**SURF** through the archives of projects at [www.pcpolyzine.com](http://www.pcpolyzine.com) or [www.sculpey.com](http://www.sculpey.com)

**TAKE** a long walk in your neighborhood. Let your mind wander.

**READ** back through your art journals & notebooks.

**LEAF** through books such as James Christensen's "Journey of the Imagination" or children's picture books.

**CLEAN** out your studio! Although this is a suggestion for only the severely stuck, the project can give you a fresh look at your creative space & may lead to some interesting discoveries of things you forgot you owned! Listening to a book on tape or favorite music will take your mind off the drudgery & create mental space for fresh, new ideas to blossom. K.S.

## A NEW USE FOR BEADS

Fayette Knopp, a polymer clayer living in Wisconsin, makes "Clip-ems" from her leftover beads. These can be clipped to purses, backpacks, jackets, or even key rings. Fayette knots the end of a 4-5" piece of buna cord, and strings on a variety of interesting polymer clay, metal and glass beads. She then adds a lanyard clip & folds & glues the cord over to form a loop, sliding several o-rings on to hold it securely. The easy, quickly made Clip-ems were top sellers at her recent craft show.



## MHPCG BOARD

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*Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep. Scott Adams*

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Karen Sexton, Editor  
1209 E. Easter Avenue  
Centennial, CO 80122



Laura Schiller  
435 Evergreen Street  
Broomfield  
Colorado 80020

