

Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

October, November, December 2005 www.mhpcg.org Volume 10 Number 2

October 2005

Dear Members of Mile High Polymer Clay Guild,

The August meeting was a great success! Special thanks to Debbie Anderson (Tiny Shoes) of San Jose, California, and Debbie Jackson (Ten Second Tools) of Columbus, Ohio, for their inspiring and informative demonstrations.

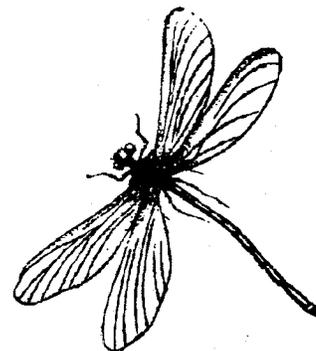
Updates on the plans for this member year:

1. Donna Kato will hold a two day workshop, October 22-23 at the Hampton Inn. This is limited to 24 students. The first day will consist of techniques and the second will be application of the techniques.
2. The October guild meeting will be held the THIRD Saturday, October 15, due to Donna's workshop.
3. Due to overwhelming interest in the Kathleen Dustin workshop scheduled for March 3-4, 2006, we have added a second workshop for March 1-2, 2006. The content of these two workshops will be the same. Each workshop is limited to 18 students. Details regarding registration will be available shortly!
4. The Holiday Recovery Party is scheduled for January 28, 2006. Please plan on joining one of the many committees required to make the day a success. We'll discuss plans at the general business meeting October 15th.
5. The next Swap will be February, 2006. Barb Harper will email details.

Thanks to Barb Harper for her continuing reign as Swapmeister. Special thanks to Bonnie Torres for the refreshment duties at each meeting.

I look forward to seeing each of you at Clay Days!

Diane Luftig





Exploring the Rainbow

by Tina Holdman

Fall is creeping in with cooler days and the trees are just beginning to adjust their color. I've been scrounging around at the back of my closet looking my coat without much luck, hoping I'll find it before freezing any important bits off. Still, the air is starting to smell like dying leaves and fireplaces everywhere are getting warmed up for the winter.

My inspiration for these colors came from various magazines with articles on preparing for Halloween and Thanksgiving festivities. The first four colors in this collection are in the medium to dark tone range. They are very evocative of fall, and despite their names are also the colors of fall leaves. The Squash is a nice neutral and could easily be used in other color palettes as well. So drag out that clay, clear a space on your worktable and warm up the cider. It's time to start mixing!

Rich Pumpkin

This is a wonderful deep orange that's sophisticated & about the color of baked pumpkin bread.

- 6 parts Premo Orange
- 3 parts Premo Ecru
- 1 part Premo Cadmium Red
- 1 part Premo Raw Sienna

Gourd Green

This is a darker, olive-ish green -- the color of dark green fall gourds.

- 3 parts Premo Leaf Green
- 3 parts Premo Green
- 1 part Premo Zinc Yellow

Indian Corn Burgundy

This is a rich, purple-ish burgundy.

- 3 parts Premo Brilliant Red
- 1 part Premo Purple
- 1 part Premo Raw Sienna

Candy Corn Yellow

This yellow is about the shade of the yellow in a piece of candy corn. I actually had a piece of candy corn sitting on my worktable that I matched with the recipe. Alas, the candy did not live past its usefulness!

- 3 parts Premo Zinc Yellow
- 2 parts Premo Translucent
- 1 part Premo White

Squash

This shade is sort of a flesh color, but is also the color of fall squash.

- 5 parts Premo White
- 1 part Premo Ecru
- 1 part Premo Cadmium Yellow
- 1/2 part Premo Orange
- 1/4 part Premo Raw Sienna



CORDING, NEW AND OLD

Although many of us find buna cord a reliable material for pendants, feature beads and bracelets, it's interesting to explore other cording options. Here are a few ideas and resources to open doors to new design possibilities.

Kumihimo

There are some excellent books available on kumihimo braiding, the art of weaving cord on a Marudai (round weaving stand) using Tama (wood bobbins) and a counter weights. These books show how to make your own weaving stand and suggest substitutes for the purchased bobbins. Nearly any material, including pearl cotton or embroidery floss can be used, offering great versatility & color choices.

In her new book, Beads & Braids, author Jacqui Carey shows how to incorporate beads with a braid, stringing the beads on after the braid is completed. This method requires beads with fairly large holes & would be ideal for polymer beads. Other techniques involve adding beads during or before braiding. There are nine diagrams for making round, flat, spiral, rectangle and square cords.

For a more information about kumihimo, get Rodrick Owen's book, Braids. 250 patterns from Japan, Peru & Beyond or Jacqui Carey's other titles: The Beginner's Guide to Braiding: the Craft of Kumihimo or Creative Kumihimo. All are available at www.amazon.com.

Everything Old is New Again

Recently there's has been a renewed interest in macrame and some of the recent books offer a new twist (no pun intended) on this old craft. Amazon.com lists these books offering updated projects, many suitable for polymer clay designs: The Macrame Book, by Helen Bress; The Hempmasters: Ancient Hippy Secrets for Knotting; Step-by-Step Macrame, by Jane Dodge; The

Knotty Macrame and Beading Book: Techniques for Beadlovers, by Wendy S. Conner, and The New Macrame by Katie Dumont.

Free, illustrated macrame instructions are found on these websites: www.elainecraft.com.
www.craftsdirectory.com.

Or if you want to cut right to the chase and buy cording ready-made, take a look at these sources.

www.firemountaingems.com

Silicone neckcords (2.2 - 2.5m) are stretchy, strong and come in a rainbow of solid, transparent and metallic colors.

Zipper lanyards are available in bright colors and are handy for displaying nametags, badges, thumb-drives & even small cell phones.

Stainless steel chokers: Each choker is a bundle of color-coated wires 1 mm in diameter, 18 "long. Twist to pull open the clasp. Add a pendant or large hole accent bead.

www.polymerclayexpress.com

PCE offers many usual and unusual cordings: soft glass plastic tubing, waxed linen, leather cord, bunka yard, Stretch Magic, and our old favorite, buna.

www.theclaystore.com

This new site has soft glass tubing & connectors and a variety of other interesting products!

www.fushionbeads.com

Stringing materials, beads, etc. etc.

www.blindsacrossamerica.com/liftcords.html

This is a source for venetian blind cord like Gwen Gibson uses with her inro boxes.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marcia Brill
7512 W. 8th Pl. #4, Lakewood, CO 80214

Holly Wolfe
7285 W. Vassar Lakewood, CO 80227

Nanette Cravey
1303 Dwinell Dr. Baytown, TX 77520

Yuriy Luzov
3724 Quiet Circle W, Colorado Springs, CO 80917

Tracy Miller
1270 Allegheny Dr Colorado Springs, CO 80919

SOURCES FOR CUFF BRACELETS ...

www.polymerclayexpress.com carries aluminum cuff bracelets in two different sizes (look under Jewelry Findings). Dick Blick also carries not only cuff blanks but also a bracelet bender as well: www.dickblick.com



Other sources for bracelet blanks and other jewelry findings are:

www.costumejewelrysupplies.com

www.bsueboutiques.com

www.metalliferous.com

RANGER ADIRONDACK INKS ...

We recently watched Donna Kato demo how to create beautiful watercolor-like surfaces on unbaked polymer clay. It was fascinating to see the inks drops flow into swirling patterns & colorful designs. Donna will share this technique at our October workshop.

Although similar to Pinata Inks, also alcohol based, the Adirondacks seemed to blend together more readily and offer a variety of both clear, bright hues as well as more subdued shades. Unlike Pinatas, these inks smear, so the surface needs to be covered with a very fine sheet of translucent clay before baking.

The Adirondacks come in sets of three coordinated color combinations such as Rustic Lodge, Farmer's Market, and Mountain Vinyard. The Metallic Mixative sets can be used with the regular colors to create metallic highlights. These dye inks can be used on baked or unbaked clay surfaces or mixed into the raw clay.

These inks are available at some Hobby Lobby stores and can be ordered from www.polymerclayexpress.com. The www.rangerinks.com website has a complete color set listing and other technical information.

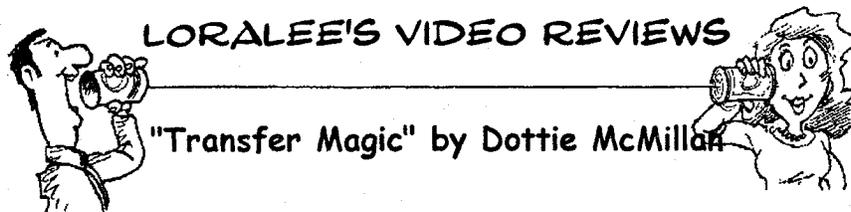
SWAP NEWS

Ten intrepid clayers met the "Anything Faux" challenge of our most recent swap. Their ingenuity, skill, and originality were evident in the swap items displayed at the September meeting. Congratulations to swappers Diane Luftig, Caryl Unrein, Tina Gugeler, Maggie Gizza, Rhonda Caldwell, Marian Gurnee, Debbie Woznick, Tina McDonald, Patty Davis, and Barb Harper.

Swapmeister Barb Harper told this observer that the February 2006 swap will feature "Canes". She will reveal details in time for sign-up at the November meeting. The swap will be limited to 14 (make 15: 14 to trade, 1 for the guild collection). Here are some websites with canning information so you can begin planning.

www.pcpolyzine.com - Look in the tutorial archives for how to make cat faces, chrysanthemum or blue balloon flower canes.

www.glassattic.com - This site offers many links to tutorials and information on all aspects of caning: construction of a variety of designs, including face canes, reduction tips, etc.



This is a great tape! As with most videos, Dottie begins by giving a list of supplies. The projects include black and white, colored, and three dimensional transfers. She begins with black and white transfers, "you must crawl before you can walk". She also provides information to get deeply cut negative and positive stamps/molds from the Ready Stamp Company (www.readystamp.com).

Dotti uses the black/white transfers to create a collaged pendant. Using Translucent Liquid Sculpey, she presents many ideas for special effects. The next section is brightly colored transfers. Once the basics are covered, she expands this technique to a very attractive 'pottery shards' pin. Finally, she teaches the dimensional transfer technique using molds and rubber stamps, with a number of variations.

Check out this tape, try the basics and then expand the ideas using your own artistic nature to make beautiful items of polymer clay.

Loralee Larson

Editor's note: Our thanks to Lorelee for writing these reviews. Lorelee has been a long-time member of both Rocky Mountain Polymer Clay Guild & our own MHPCG. Her positive outlook, enthusiasm and dedication to creative learning has been an inspiration to her many polymer clay friends. Failing vision makes it difficult for her to travel from her home in Cheyenne, Wyoming to attend our meetings. Let's keep in touch! Thanks, LoreLee!

TUTORIALS

If you missed the Anything Faux challenge you may want to explore these pc faux turquoise tutorials:
<http://beadyeyedbrat.com/tutesfaux.html>

www.polymerclaycentral

This site has a huge variety of projects in their archives & currently feature tutorials on a basket weave cane and a zipper cane.



STATEMENT OF ETHICS FROM THE NATIONAL POLYMER CLAY GUILD

We respect the right of our fellow artists to profit from their creative work and teachings. Polymer clay artists value originality and expertise and respect the unique work of other artists and teachers. When learning a new technique from another artist or teacher, polymer clay artists endeavor to integrate and transform the technique into their personal style, while providing full attribution to the original artist.

A TIP FOR SANDING LENTILS ...

Here's an easy way to protect your fingers while sanding lentils or other rounded shapes:

Take a piece of masking tape about 5 inches long; fold it in half, pinching the sticky sides together. Don't let the sides stick all the way down; leave the last 3/4 inch unstuck, going in separate directions. Think of a Y-shape.

{ Put the saucer of your baked, 1/2 lentil bead in the fork on the Y and turn the whole thing over. The pinched tape becomes a handle, the sticky Y forks hold the saucer shape so you can sand the edge of the lentil flat without sanding your fingers.

Maureen Maker

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING ...

www.polymerdesignsbydiane.com

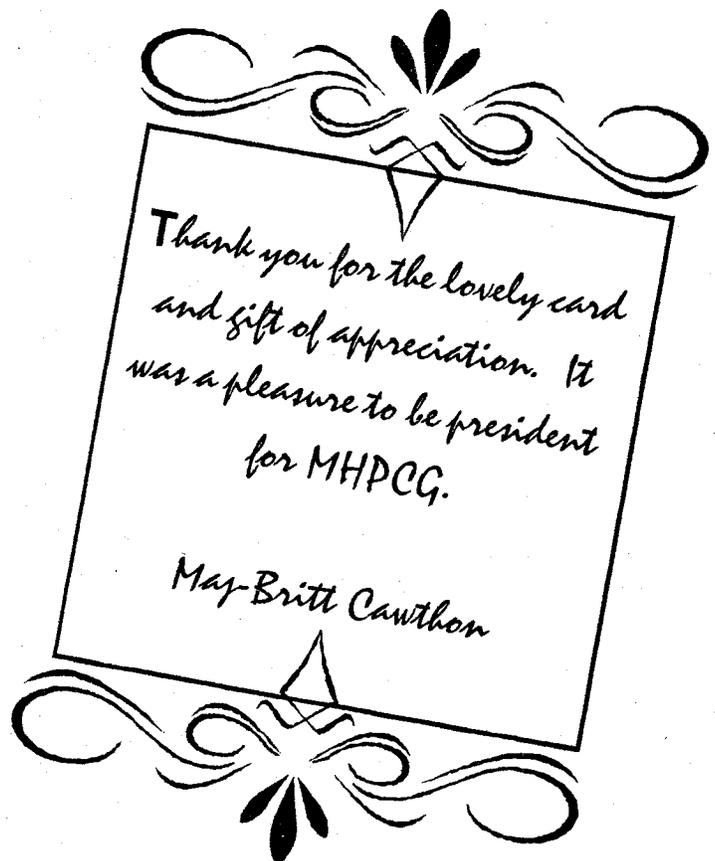
Check out President Diane's new site!

www.michaels.com

Product information and a variety of tutorials, including an interactive demonstration on beading techniques.

www.doverpublishing.com

Excellent source for copyright-free images, many on CD. Sign up for 'Mary Davis' newsletter featuring new and favorite clip art books with downloadable samples in every issue.



BOOK REVIEWS

Polymer Clay Surface Design Recipes

Ellen Marshall

I was drawn to this book by the stylish, colorful polymer clay pieces on its cover. The unique box, bracelet and necklace & promise of "100 Mixed-Media Techniques plus Project Ideas" immediately captured my interest. Here, at last, was a book brimming with information on ways to use a myriad of paints, inks, and other media to enhance polymer clay surfaces.

My reaction throughout the chapters on surface techniques and application as well as surface techniques intensives was: "I didn't know that!" Basic surface recipes include rubber stamps, monoprinting, paste paper, acrylic media, silk screening, alcohol inks, stenciling, masking, pastel collage, ikat color blends and batiking.

Ellen presents a modest selection of projects using the various recipes, including a mosaic card, utensil handle, faux paper-bead necklace, notepad, album cover and triangle bracelet. The gallery is a collection of spectacular polymer clay items in unusual and attractive colors, illustrating just how many possibilities there are using these new techniques.

Like Sherrill Kahn's Creating with Paint, this book could be used as a guide for a variety of experiments with media and clay. What a good winter project! KS

Creative Techniques for Polymer Clay Jewelry

Nanetta Banato

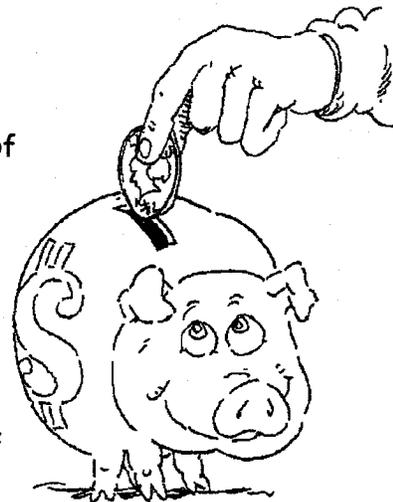
This colorful new book presents information on jewelry-making basics and includes instructions for several canes. The 45 step-by-step jewelry projects will probably appeal most to beginners since many pieces are similar to designs shared by other artists in previous publications. The color schemes are especially attractive and the author presents an unusual use for a translucent 'crackle' cane. KS

MONEY SAVERS

Diane has sent our MHPCG membership list to Monro Crafts so that members are eligible for a generous 50% discount on orders of \$200 or more. The Monro catalog is on their website, www.monrocrafts.com, but you must order via their toll-free number. Thanks, Diane. This is a nice membership perk!

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Be sure to check the www.joann.com website for printable 40% off coupons. Get on their e-mail list and they'll send them regularly!





NEW PRODUCTS

Sculpey Ultra Light: This amazingly versatile clay is lightweight and durable. When rolled thin & baked, it is flexible & perfect for paper crafts. It makes an ideal base for beads and like other polymer clay it can be painted with acrylic paints, sanded, drilled and buffed after curing.

Portable Polymer Clay Work Surface: This lightweight, two-sided surface makes cutting, rolling, and measuring easy. Using the 1/4" grid, you can accurately measure & cut geometric shapes, determine accurate portions for color mixing, and make straight and angled cuts. It is thinner than a sheet of clay rolled out on the #1 setting.

Available at inventor Diana Crick's website:
www.members.shaw.ca/clayquilt/page1/index.htm/

Changed Meeting Date (this month only)
Saturday, October 15, 2005

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