

Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

October, November, December 2007 www.mhpcg.org



A Letter from the President

Hi, Everyone!

Welcome back to those who have been on vacation or doing something else this summer. I think we have an interesting year coming up that you will not want to miss.

Some of the things we have on the agenda are demos for Clay Days. I will be giving a mini workshop on making night lights at the October meeting. If you are interested, let Susan M. know so she can include your name on the list. The cost for parts will not be over \$5.00 & you will also need two 3-ounce blocks of translucent clay plus your choice of colored clays. We will plan to get some pictures of the finished projects on our website. To see night lights created by other artists, go to www.polymerclaydaily.com and look through the previous posts.

We should be able to bake the lights that day as we have purchased a big convection oven that is a vast improvement over our little ones. We tested one like it at Debbie Jackson's workshop & up at Pingree. It performed beautifully

We are already thinking about our January "Holiday Recovery Party" and signed up volunteers at the September Clay Day. Plan to add your name to that list at the October meeting.

Lucille is doing an excellent job formatting and adding to our website. We hope to have this completely up and running by the first of the year or sooner so we can

post the newsletter and membership list on it. Only paid members will have access to the membership information. Thanks, Lucille!

Peg and Angela are working on getting the store ready. You will find more information about it in this newsletter.

There are several people I would like to thank for their hard work and dedication. Tina Holdman has sent in her color recipes over the past three years. If you haven't been using them you should try them! They are excellent. Sue Mueller is on top of everything and I mean everything. She collects money for dues, workshops and raffles. She helps plan the board meetings and lets everyone know what is going on at Clay Day. And last but not least, thanks to Karen Sexton for her years of dedication and seeing that the newsletters get to you promptly. There are others who are truly dedicated to making this Guild a success and I will be mentioning them throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Gerrie





Exploring the Rainbow

with Tina Holdman

This collection is matched to Sherrill Sorbets which are a collection of acrylic paints that can be used on polymer clay. Sherrill Kahn designed these colors and the paints are made by Jacquard Products. I was fortunate enough to be able to take three classes from Sherrill while

she was in town this summer and highly recommend her classes to those of you interested in both color and design. Sherrill has written several books which I've owned and used since the first publication. I also have used many of her stamps over the years with polymer clay. You can check out her catalog and teaching schedule at www.impressmenow.com. (Ed. note: Sherrill's Sorbets are available at JoAnn's in sample sets and at most art stores in this area.)

One of the many useful things I learned in Sherrill's class was how to use pastel colors as well as the deeper, richer colors in art projects. Both sets of color are needed for contrast and to increase the richness in the appearance of an art piece. Sherrill's Sorbets are a collection of pastel colors that I tended to leave on my shelves collecting dust. Now they are used as much as the deeper colors I tend to prefer. I do hope you will experiment with this collection to liven up your own work.

These colors given in the recipes correspond with the name given in Sherrill's collection. These colors are matte so they match the paints as closely as possible. For those of you who prefer a bit of sparkle, substitute pearl clay for the white clay and you will have a lovely collection of pearl pastels.

Grape

8 parts Premo White
2 parts Premo Purple

Lemon

10 parts Premo White
5 parts Premo Cadmium Yellow
1 part Premo Ecru

Watermelon

8 parts Premo White
1/4 part Premo Fuschia

Blueberry

4 parts Premo White
2 parts Ultramarine Blue

Mint

5 parts Premo White
3/4 parts Premo Sea Green

Tangerine

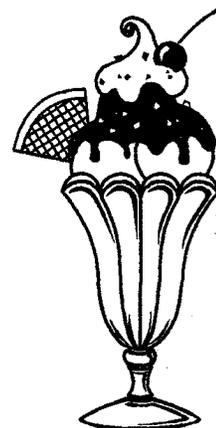
5 parts Premo White
4 parts Premo Orange
2 parts Premo Cadmium Red
1/4 part Premo Ecru

Melon

4 parts Premo White
1 part Premo Ecru
1/2 part Premo Orange

Mango

8 parts Premo White
3 parts Premo Orange
1/2 part Cadmium Red



Happenings

Congratulations to raffle winners **Joanne McGee, Clare Parmuk and Liz Hall**, who won a free day at our recent Debbie Jackson workshop!

Welcome new member **Pam Skersick**, 4223 Clear Lake Circle, Fort Worth, TX 76109 (pam@crone-art.com) Pam is MHPGG's Nebraska member, **Carol Lockwood's** sister. They rendezvoused in Denver for Debbie's workshop and we enjoyed seeing these two very classy and talented sisters in action!

Shop Till You Drop... a new Clay Day Opportunity

by Peg Harper

Hi, Gang! As our guild retreat day was winding up in May, some of us got to talking about how nice it would be to have a store in our guild that would supply items we want to have available. The Board approved the idea and this is how Angela and I see it working:

We can take advantage of volume buying at places like Firemountain Gems. The little filigree purses that I covered using Judy Belcher's technique came from Fire Mountain. If you purchase one purse, it costs \$4.50 but if you buy fifty, they're about \$1.00! Many companies offer this kind of pricing including Jones Tones. Some of us would like to try the Lazartran process for image transfers. A package costs \$20 but we can purchase one package and sell the individual sheets for about \$2.50 which will cover our costs, help you try something out without a large outlay of funds and help us build a little equity for more inventory purchases. If there's a long-anticipated demo offered which involves a special piece of hardware and we know about it ahead of time we can make sure to have a few of that item for sale on the day of the demo for those of us who just have to go right home and 'do that'!

already have quite a few things which are for sale now. Angela is busy taking an inventory. I've got us set up with a cash drawer, receipt books and an account book. We'll sell things to you at each clay day and turn the money over to Milli, our worthy guild treasurer. We

aren't using guild funds for this. If it's to work at all we must support it through sales. You can also support this endeavor by donating your cast-offs for re-sale. All donations are welcome!

Here's what you need to do: come see what we have in stock and make a purchase. See me or Angela on Clay Days to let us know what you're interested in having us get for you. We have a large number of current catalogs and welcome other suggestions for supply sources. If you have a brain flash in the middle of the night, send me an e-mail so that I can look into what you want before the next guild meeting. (peg@harpersound.com)

Come and see what we have for you! *Peg H.*



Klay Karma 2007

by Lucille Fischetta

In July I had the opportunity to attend a polymer clay retreat at River College in Nashua, New Hampshire. After a tiring seven hour drive from New Jersey, my fellow East Coast clayers and I arrived at a large room filled with Connecticut & New Hampshire people focused on their creations. As we entered you could feel the electricity of creative juices flowing.

The retreat lasted from Friday noon to Sunday noon. There were numerous demonstrations throughout the weekend. Here are some highlights:

Jana Roberts Benzon showed everyone how to reduce a 4-inch detailed triangular cane. She reduced the cane by banging it on the floor, equally on all sides. As we watched in amazement, the cane reduced and grew in length to about six feet! The cane was then sliced into sections and joined to form several different kaleidoscope canes. It was simply amazing!

(www.jana@janarobertsbenzon.com)

Lynn Ann Schwarzenburg demonstrated slicing minute flowers and adding them to a wood grained polymer background to create outstanding pins. She recently won several awards in the NCPG Progress and Possibilities exhibit. (View the exhibit at www.npcg.org.) Lynn's work can be seen at her website: www.riverpoetdesign.com)

There were also demos on faux opal, ways to use scrap canes & an introduction of the Yetta cane (a combination of the feature cane and Natasha bead). I had the privilege of doing a demo for the group.

Polymer Clay Express and Boston Clayworks set up displays to sell their wares. We always need more stuff, right?

What a way to spend the weekend! The rooms were comfortable. The food was great. I got to spend time with my New Jersey friends and had the opportunity to make many new ones.

Library News

Tina Guegler, our loyal Librarian, announces that members may check out two (not one!) items each month. No additional deposit check will be required. Several new items are available for check-out, including The Painted Surface (information & projects using the new Stewart Gill paints) and two DVDs: Extruding Polymer Clay Canes with Cindy Beljan, and Boxes, Bangles and Beautiful Focal Beads with Mari O'Dell. Both are well worth watching.

Don't forget: if you have a library item due at Clay Day and emergency prevents you from attending, call or e-mail Tina & make arrangements to mail the item back to her so it will be checked in before Clay Day. The late-fees are not meant to be punitive but to help us keep our materials available. (Tina Gugeler - 2420 Cessna Dr., Erie, CO 80516; 720-890-0552; Tgugeler@earthlink.net)



A Note from Milli

I've started working with some animal shelters. They are always in need of many things. If you wish to donate any of the following items I will be picking them up at our monthly meetings. This will be on-going, so if you don't have anything now, later is a good time, too!

(www.tablemountainanimals.org)

These things are always needed: towels, blankets, polar fleece or cuddly fabric (larger pieces, not scraps - they use it for bedding.) Copy paper, paper towels, 45 gallon trash bags, Handiwipes, stainless steel or ceramic food and water bowls, cat and dog toys, toilet paper/tissues, postage stamps, office supplies.

Please try the GoodSearch as your default search engine. It costs you nothing but if enough people use it, it can make a difference. Go to www.goodsearch.com and indicate that you are supporting Table Mountain Animal Shelter. Save that page as your default search engine and browse the internet as usual. Each search, powered by Yahoo, makes money for Table Mountain. It's an easy way to support the center by doing what you do everyday!

Website News

I'm in the process of revamping our web site. I am currently enrolled in a Dreamweaver class. (This is the software for changing and building websites.) After just two classes I've been able to make some changes to the site as well as repair some broken links. Hopefully by the end of the six week class all of the mysteries will be revealed!

I think the site should be upbeat and current. You have many wonderful creations and tips to share. Let's add them to our website for the world to see! Let me know what other items or categories you'd like to see on our site.

I've been working with several people from our group to identify future changes and additions. We'd like to build a forum for helpful hints, tips and lessons. I have Tina Holdman's Color Recipes and these will be added soon. I'm sure there are many more tips we can share. Many of the files and pictures available on site are old and outdated. We are in desperate need of current pictures & information.

NPCG Conference

The National Polymer Clay Guild has announced its February 2008 conference and has posted details on the www.npcg.org website.

"Synergy 1" is a new kind of conference for the polymer clay, metal clay, mixed media and sculpting communities. Rather than hands-on classes aimed at teaching specific creative techniques, this conference is comprised of 90 minute seminars, lectures and panel discussions aimed at promoting sharing and communication between presenters & attendees alike. Special presenters include Kathleen Dustin, Carol Duvall & Cynthia Tinapple; other well-known artists will be leading panel discussions and seminars.

In addition, Synergy will give you the opportunity to speak with teachers and collect packets of information to bring back to your local organizations, purchase supplies, tools, finished work, network with other artists, and attend the American Craft Council Show.

Registration opens online October 1, 2007.

Remember, the site is frequently viewed by people who are new to polymer clay. We'd like to grab their attention & make them addicted as we are!

Please forward your pictures and valuable information to me: lucki46@comcast.net. If you add MHPCG Website to the subject line, I'll be able to identify your e-mail quickly. If you do not have digital prints of your work, please bring these items to the next guild meeting and I will be glad to take some pictures for you.

Thanks in advance for all your input! Remember, this site belongs to all of us!

Lucille Fischetta

MHPCG Webmaster

Mixing Custom Pearl-X Colors

Deb Brooner recently told us about US Artquest's custom watercolor recipes using Pearl-X powders. Although the resulting concoctions do not work on polymer clay, they're perfect for paper projects and we thought you mixed-media enthusiasts might be interested. Here's how:

1. Using a Little Dipper (or other very small spoon), add 2 scoops (1/2 tsp.) gum arabic to each small jar of Pearl-Ex powder.
1. Add 2 scoops of distilled water to each jar.
3. Gently blend the mixture, adding more water until it becomes the consistency of heavy cream.
4. Let the mixture sit, then remix.
5. Leave the mixture in the jar or pour it into plastic paint palettes. (It will dry & harden.)

* BTW: Hobby Lobby sells the same little jars with black lid that the Pearl Ex samplers come in. "Little Dippers" are small measuring spoons sold by US Artquest at most hobby stores. The small spoons used at ice cream stores for samples (yum) would work well as would a regular measuring spoon. In the following color recipes, it's the proportions that are important.

OK, now for those of you who devote all of your artistic energies to polymer clay, here are Deb's custom Pearl-X color recipes:

Butterscotch: 1 part Red Russett, 3 parts Yellow, 1 part Pearl, 1 part Super Copper

Orchid: 1 part Misty Lavender, 2 parts Pearl White, 1 part Flamingo Pink

Magenta: 1 part Lavender, 1 part Super Copper

Grape: 1 part True Blue, 1 part Super Copper
(This is Deb's favorite.)

Periwinkle: 1 part True Blue, 1 part Misty Lavender, 1 part Micro Pearl, 1 part Macro Pearl

Olive Green: 3 parts Spring Green, 2 parts Yellow, 1 part Sparkle Gold

And from US Art Quest:

Teal: 4 parts Spring Green, 2 parts True Blue

Wedgewood Blue: 1 part True Blue,
3 parts Pearl White, hint of Antique Silver.

Good Red: 3 parts Red Russett, 2 parts Flamingo Pink.

Thanks, Deb Brooner!



Websites Worth Visiting

Tutorials

www.polymerclayweb.com

Learn how to make pirate coins, pinata mokume, crackled inlays.

www.tonjastreasures.com

Instructions for making a pendant hanger.

www.dragonglass.com

Instructions for constructing a bargello cane.

www.louisehillsfunwithcolor.blogspot.com

Color-mixing focusing in Kato Polyclay

www.b-muse.com

How-to ideas for covering vials with polymer clay.

www.youtube.com

Use their search engine for locating new polymer clay video tutorials. Most notable: Cynthia Tinapple's face cane video.

Also of interest: Suzanne Ivester's new video on covering a votive holder.

www.flickr.com/groups/colormixing

Inspiration for doll lovers

www.lbalombini.com

www.monaadisabrooks.com

www.cmaloneyart.com

www.katechurch.com

Blogs

www.louisehillsfunwithcolor.blogspot.com

(Color-mixing with Kato Polyclay)

<http://artfortheheart.blogspot.com>

www.ravensclay.blogspot.com

www.clayhappenings.blogspot.com

www.shadesoffrost.blogspot.com

www.polyclay.com/blog

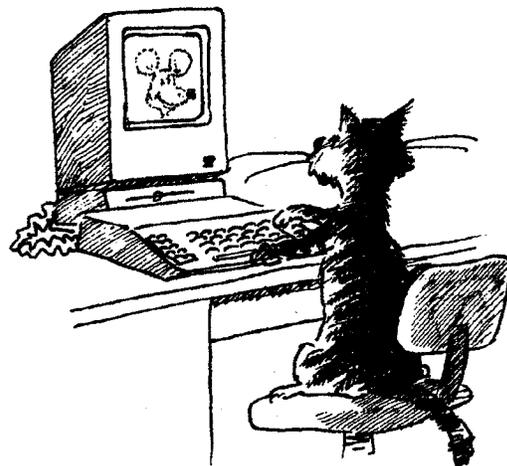
www.treasurefield.blogspot.com

(A list of wonderful links to other creative blogs.)

www.lindly.wordpress.com

Favorite artist Lindly Haunani shares her color-mixing secrets & creative views

www.clayinthehands.blogspot.com



Rocky Mountain Weavers' Guild

Annual Fiber Art Sale

October 25-27, 2007

Englewood Civic Center

1000 Englewood Parkway Englewood, Colorado

This annual sale offers hundreds of handwoven textiles to wear or use in your home: knitted, felted, hand-painted,, beaded, embroidered, quilted gifts & baskets. Milli Barton's & Holly Wolfe's beautiful work will be displayed along with Maggie Gizza's fabulous buttons.

Hours: Thursday, 5 p.m. -8 p.m; Friday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information: 303-758-9505 or

www.rmweaversguild.org



Clay Days

October 27th

November 24th

December - no meeting

Holiday Recovery Party

January 26, 2008

MHPCG Newsletter

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