

Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

Spring 2011

President's Letter

Hello, everyone,

By the time this comes to you, Spring will have officially arrived. I'm absolutely ready for any color to appear outside that isn't brown—and I know I'm not alone!

We had heaps of fun at our annual Holiday Recovery Party. Great fellowship, food and lots of laughs were had by all in attendance. Thank you all for pitching in and making it such a success. It's going to be hard to top this one next year.

We're in the midst of our Spring "Inchies" swap which will wind up at the April meeting (4/22). I keep thinking I have mine ready to go and then I think of another process I'd like to share. At the very least I'll have lots of new tiles for my icon projects.

April is also the month in which we elect officers. If you'd like to serve your guild by being on the board, please let me, Sue Mueller, Helen McKee or Karen Sexton know. I'd like to thank you for allowing me to be your president the past three years. It's really been a privilege and a great opportunity to get to know some of you better and on a more personal level.

Christi Friesen is teaching our Spring, two-day workshop on April 29th & May 1st. There are a variety of projects we'll be learning. I'm really looking forward to what promises to be a very entertaining experience. At this time, however, the class is full. If you'd like to get on the 'wait list', let Sue Mueller know.

We're trying to move toward more clay play at our monthly meetings. We'll continue having demonstrations given by members and guests but we want you to bring your clay & sit together. How about setting up the tables each month the way we do for the retreat so that there are four people at each station with some room to share and still spread out? Just a thought.

Next, our Guild Store. The Board needs to know if you want to have a store where we offer smaller quantities of supplies for you to try at a reasonable cost. If you have any feelings one way or the other or requests for items we might purchase, please let the board know right now. We need to decide whether this will continue: who, how and why and all the other stuff.

I've been playing with a lot of UV cure resins in metal and PC bezels. I've finally made a commitment to have a gallery installation at the Bead Lounge in Longmont during the month of September. I now have several Laurie-Mika-style icons in various stages of completion (not all just in my head anymore) and one very large steampunk assemblage to be put together from parts I've been collecting for three years. What's on your clay table?

Happy Claying!

Peg

Exploring the Rainbow with Tina Holdman



Color Recipe Collection #23 Zinnias and Hydrangeas

This color collection is a rather odd one in some ways. The colors placed next to each other on my color sample bar do not seem terribly attractive. I scratched my head and had a bit of an ick and yuck moment. They did not seem quite as attractive on the table versus from my color inspiration sample that mixed the colors together. So why bother with them, you may well ask. Well, used together in a palette they are surprisingly lovely. The cool shades and warm shades contrast highly with each other and the colors really 'pop' when placed together.

This collection is surprisingly cheerful and upbeat. They would be a good set to mix for those who wear brighter clothes or want a bright accent piece to cheer up discrete wardrobe color choices. These colors do have a fair amount of punch and are not for the delicate. For those that prefer a softer palette, try mixing some ecru into each of the recipes and you might find it more to your liking.

Premo colors you will need for this collection are:

White, Green, Zinc Yellow, Cadmium Yellow, Raw Sienna, Ecru, Orange, Violet, Fuchsia, Cobalt Blue, Ultramarine Blue, Black, Purple.



Zinnias and Hydrangea Recipes

#1 Sage Vine Green

5 parts Premo White
2 parts Premo Green
2 parts Premo Zinc Yellow
1 part Premo Raw Sienna
1 part Premo Cadmium Yellow

#2 Light Green Yellow

12 parts Premo White
1 part Premo Zinc Yellow
1 part Premo Cadmium Yellow
1 part Premo Ecru
1/4 part Premo Green

#3 Zinnia Yellow

3 parts Premo White
3 parts Premo Zinc Yellow
1 part Premo Cadmium Yellow
1 part Premo Ecru
1/8 part Premo Orange

#4 Zinnia Coral Pink

3 parts Premo Orange
2 parts Premo White
1 part Premo Fuchsia

#5 Bright Zinnia Pink

2 parts Premo White
2 parts Premo Fuchsia
1 part Premo Violet

#6 Hydrangea Ink Blue

6 parts Premo Ultramarine Blue
4 parts Premo White
2 parts Premo Cobalt Blue
1 part Premo Black
1 part Premo Purple

Editor's note: You'll want to print off a copy of these recipes and keep them handy for the recipes Tina has whomped up for the July newsletter! KS

You may not be one of the lucky 25 people who signed up for Christi Freisen's Workshop April 30-May 1st, but you still have an opportunity to meet Christi, watch her demonstrate a favorite technique and purchase some of her pieces. Mark you calendar and plan to attend!

Meet the Artist

Friday, April 30th, 5 to 7 p.m.
Hampton Inn at I-70 & Colfax

Please note the change of venue! Sue says you can see the Kohl's sign from I-70, which is a good landmark for the Hotel's location.



Questions? Contact Sue Mueller (suemuellersmail@aol.com).



Inchies Swap

Organized by our enthusiastic swapmeister, **Laura Schiller**, the current swap promises to be a huge success. See more on-line information about 'Inchies' at "Mystery Mosaic" on Cynthia Tinapple's blog, www.polymerclaydaily.com, <http://polymerclay.craftgossip.com/inch-by-inch/2010/04/16>, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mandarinmoon/5133327007/> or at http://www.polymerclaycentral.com/swap_inchies1.html

The deadline for signing up was the March 26, 2011 guild meeting. The exchange of inchies will be at the April 23, 2011 meeting. Participants must make ten (10) inchies. Laura suggests making one extra for the Guild's collection and a bunch for trading with other swappers.

WARNING: IF YOU SIGN UP YOU ARE OBLIGATED TO MAKE TEN (10) INCHIES. NO BACK-ING OUT!

Please contact Laura Schiller if you have questions or concerns: 43 Evergreen Street, Broomfield, Colorado. 303 404 3783 or laura@lauraseggs.com



Annual MHPCG Spring Retreat
June 3 & 4th, 2011
 Noon Friday—5 p.m. Saturday
 Lockwood Community Church
 Lakewood, Colorado

Bracelet Bonanza!

Our annual retreat is a great opportunity for new & old clayers to spend studio time creating, sharing, learning and making new friends.

Bring your sleeping bag! For those who do, the fun extends into the wee small hours!

We are scheduling demonstrations to introduce some new surface and construction techniques. An e-mail document will be sent participants listing websites with tutorials and special information about bracelet design & construction. Think of the possibilities for using those beads, baubles & special techniques you've been saving.



*Space is limited, so send your early registration to
 Sue Mueller, 20 W. Ranch Trail, Morrison, CO 80465*

Name _____ e-mail _____

Retreat Registration Fee: \$25 (includes food, demos, special materials & FUN!)
Dues 2011-12 : \$30* (You may postdate your checks June 1st.)

List your preferences 1-2-3 for helping with: ___ food ___ set-up ___ clean-up
 (Note: We need at least 2 people to organize & coordinate each meal (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch) as well as volunteers for serving & kitchen clean-up.)

*\$15 Associate dues for paid members of PPPCG, EJLPC or RMPCG



Internet Resources by Karen Sexton

<http://ceramicartsdaily.org/daily/video/> Videos of pottery techniques are interesting to watch even though they apply to polyclay in a very general way. I was interested when one of the potters used a Subaru floor mat to texture a large clay tube. Guess whatever clay you're using, textures are found everywhere! This video sent me scampering out to my Forester to 'borrow' the mat!

<http://barbarabriggsdesigns.wordpress.com/> Multi-media artist Barbara Briggs' blog is filled with interesting information and views of her on-going work. Her guitar-string/polymer bangle bracelets are original and attractive.

<https://www.polyclayplay.com/FreeVideos.htm> This site has links to several interesting video demonstrations, as well as tips and other pc-related information.

<http://smartflix.com/> Take a look at the variety of videos available for rent. I haven't tried the service but am tempted! Use the search engine to see the list of polymer clay videos available. (Don't forget the videos in our guild library!)

<http://www.polymerclayweb.com/scrapclay.asp> My scrap clay jar is always filled, just waiting to be re-purposed. I found this information on ways to use scrap clay very helpful.

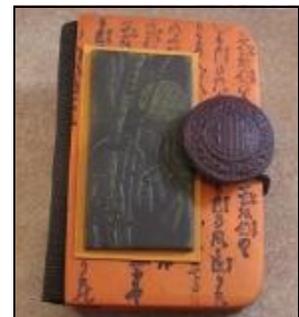


<http://moonroommuse.wordpress.com/2011/01/14/mini-tutorial-polymer-clay-drawer-and-cabinet-knobs/> Artist Amy Crawley shares a tutorial on making polymer clay-covered drawer pulls. Think redecorating!

<http://valerieaharoni.com/> I often check in to this blog written by an east-coast polymer clay artist who also knits and crochets. Valerie is a long-time clayer and there are lots of older posts & links, including her technique for making parchment paper transfers.

<http://www.voila.eu.com/viewPage.php?ID=TutesCentral> This site has a list of unusual projects & tutorials. Explore the other areas for fabulous work done by European polymer clay artists.

<http://www.foahdesigns.com/test/foah/WalletTutorialMain.php> Here's a free tutorial on making a polymer clay wallet. There's a companion tute detailing printing on polymer clay and some beautiful work by the artist in the gallery.



Here's a new take on the old safety pin bracelet. Don't you think adding polymer clay beads would enhance its look? Safety pins come in a variety of colored finishes & the bracelet might be a fun project for the Bracelet Bonanza.

See more details at: <http://www.ornamantea.com/TheShop/TutorialPages/SafetyPinBracelet.html>



Members' Musings

Marian Gurney shared the following: I've gotten to the point that I rarely find anything to buy or use coupons for in most of the stores. My sister said that is because I already own most of it! LOL. She is correct, of course. Sooooo...I was delighted when I discovered a brand new section at a Michaels stores near me in the Southland shopping area. It is an entire area featuring metal-working supplies: dapping blocks & tools, anvils, special vices & hole cutters, hammers, half-round sterling silver wire & a lots of other wire in many colors & gauges. There are packaged assortments of pre-cut pieces in various metals & lots of other goodies. With coupons, the items are very affordable.

(Note: I found this selection in both the Highlands Ranch & Park Meadows Michaels stores. KS)

Marian also tells us there is a new tutorial at CraftEdu on how to make cutters from soda cans. "I took it and found it very useful since I like to use cutters. It was clearly set up and the pace was perfect. The cost is \$12 and can be viewed 12 times over 365 days." <http://www.craftedu.com/making-your-own-microcutters-for-polymer-clay/play-MzA2Njk2NTc3NQ>

Bette Lorman, shared the following on-line source for the NEW PREMO! colors. She wrote: "I got the new colors from Boston Crafts Works (<http://polymerclayprojects.com/>) I ordered on the 7th, they packaged on the 9th and I received them on the 16th. Not too fast, but then I didn't ask for it to be faster. Shipping was \$12.80 (flat rate box). I got two one-pound packages and since the prices were good, I also ordered other things I needed so I'd have them before the workshop. The entire order was 7 pounds.

Note: Boston Crafts Works also has a variety of items just crying to be covered or enhanced with polymer clay: compacts, business card cases, bottle stoppers, fan pulls, letter openers and kaleidoscope kits. Most intriguing is the "Dicro Slide", which is genuine dicroic on water-slide paper. Think of the possibilities! Sounds intriguing! KS



Help needed: **Deb Wozniak** has resumed the Program Chair position and needs volunteers for Clay Day demos. Please let her know what you're willing to share and make Deb's important job easier.

Thanks to **Lin Chirico** & her husband for transferring all of our Carol Duvall Show VHS tapes onto DVDs. They even prepared a directory of the episodes so you can easily find the segment you want to watch.

Coming Events

Clay Days:

April 23rd

May 28

June 25

Christi Friesen Workshop

April 30, May 1st

Retreat: June 3-4



Sarah Shriver Workshop

October 8 & 9



Start putting pennies in the piggy bank!
You won't want to miss the opportunity
to learn from this outstanding
polymer artist. See Sarah's work at:
www.sarahshriver.com.
Registration & details will be in the
summer newsletter, July 1st.

Who's who on the MHPCG Board?

Elected Officers: Peg Harper, President
Susan Mueller, Vice President/Membership
Rosanne Thompson
Helen McKee, Treasurer

Chairpersons: Tina Gugeler, Librarian
Janice Calm, Webmaster
Karen Sexton, Newsletter Editor
Debra Wozniak, Program

Important Reminder: **Dues are due June 1st!**

Don't miss the July newsletter, library privileges & other benefits!

Renew today! Send \$30* check to: Sue Mueller
29 W. Ranch Trail, Morrison, Colorado 80465

*Associate dues are \$15 for paid members of other Colorado guilds.