

# Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

## Winter 2012

### *President's Letter*



It's December 22nd. I'm sitting here watching the lovely snow come down, knowing that I have all the marketing and other errands finished and don't have to go out into it. Perfect claying weather. I hope you're able to make some time during this busy season to express yourselves through polymer. I've read so many messages from other clayers who have itchy hands from being too busy to get into their studios. Right now my studio is the dumping ground for wrapping paper, decorations and gifts but I still have a path to basic clay and tools for making icon tiles.

Our guild year has been eventful, including visits from Christie Friesen and Sarah Shriver for workshops, our terrific spring retreat and second annual fall make and take. And lest I forget, our Hilarious Holiday Recovery Party on (more on this inside). We've had demonstrations from faithful members who keep pushing us to try new things and sharpen our "tools". And we are continually inspired by getting together to share our discoveries and help figure out, "How did they do that?" Our first "inchie" swap was a real eye-opener too.

2012 promises to be another great year for us; We have Laurie Mika in the spring (registration info inside) for two separate but inclusive days of projects. Personally I've learned so much about texturing, coloring and using clay tiles from Laurie that I actually mounted my first show this last fall. Some well known artists got together this last year and swapped processes, working outside their own comfort zones, to create new pieces combining their own special talents. I hope to see us doing some of this during this next year. In the fall we have Christie Friesen coming back for two more days of zany, funny, no-rules creativity. Sue and the board have worked well with these artists to create a new structure for workshops which will accommodate more attendees and keeps our costs down. I hope we'll all approach this new structure with excitement and open minds. And in addition to workshops from visiting artists, we'll have our annual spring retreat and what is now an annual fall gathering. (From what I've learned about November's event, there were plenty of exciting and hilarious happenings there.) Our first project beginning February will be a new swap adventure.

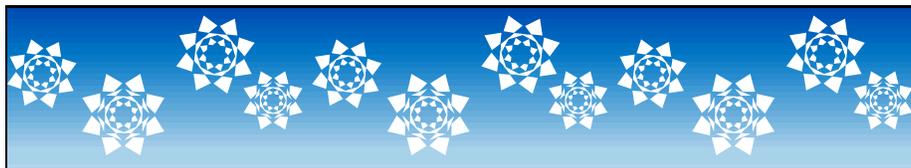
As each year passes, I'm amazed at the amount of details and hard work done by members who make sure all our events run smoothly and contain the most fun we can cram into them. Sue Mueller has taken care of so many loving tasks that I don't know where to begin; Membership, Workshops, Facilities liaison and ordering clay blades are just a few things she does for us in her own quiet way. Karen Sexton continues to create the best guild newsletter I've seen out here in cyberspace. Helen McKee (who handles the treasury for both this guild and the Loring group) keeps us up to date on where our bits of money go. (She says she's getting it all over with at one time.) Tina Gugeler not only keeps our equipment and library assets up to date but keeps check-out running smoothly. She can figure out any process that comes along and then shares her discoveries with us. Karen Green keeps us supplied with hostesses for yummy goodies each month and mans the bead jar, creating necklaces for members going through health challenges. Roseanne, Debbra, Tina M., Marian and all those who so freely give of themselves and make our lives so much richer

deserve to be recognized. Kathy Ham who's been "honcho-ing" our retreats so long that she's just expected to keep on doing it, Suzanne McGuirk who enjoys decorating for our holiday party and Laura Schiller who's been running our spring swaps are just a few more. And all of you who continue to step in to help take care of all the details at all our events, deserve praise for making light work with many hands. Thank you.

In the larger world polymer is beginning to receive it's proper respect through permanent and traveling gallery exhibits, wider recognition in the "real" art world and dedicated artists who keep pushing us to explore, practice and discover the many ways we can be expressive in our own way. We can do a lot to help with this, especially since the newest magazine, "Polymer Arts" is created right here in Denver and open to all suggestions and ideas. I'll always encourage you to prepare and share a demonstration with our guild members. We've had traveling and distant members request that we make video recordings of our demonstrations to share online. That may happen some day, but for now, the best way to grow your talents and skills is to keep coming to meetings, clay together and go home and make stuff!

I'm wishing you the best of years in 2012.

Happy claying!



## **LIBRARY NEWS:**

Our dedicated librarian, Tina Gugeler, reports the following new acquisitions:

***Baubles, Beads & Jewels" Series 1300 and 1400***

These DVDs present over 6 hours of jewelry-making how-to.

***Making It BIG with Loretta Lam***

If you're interested in creating some BIG beads, this DVD will show you how and give you many ideas for color and surface design.

# LAURIE MIKA WORKSHOP

APRIL 20 AND 21, 2012

Friday, April 20th: "Wearable Reliquaries"

Saturday, April 21st: "Mini Clay Quilts"

## Here's Laurie's description of the Friday Wearable Reliquary workshop:



"The earliest reliquaries were simple box-like designs meant to hold relics that were often the physical remains of saints. In the broad sense, a relic is a venerated object and in this workshop we will be making secular and ancient looking jewelry pieces based on that traditional box-like shape. We will create small spaces in the 'wearable (and not so wearable) reliquaries' to hold an item of personal significance like a Milagro, strands of hair, seeds, a photo, charm or jewelry parts. I even created a small reliquary that holds my dog's tooth!

We will cover a variety of techniques using polymer clay including rubber stamps, acrylic paint, transfers, mica powders, mica sheets, embossing powders, gold leaf and even shrink plastic. I will also demonstrate techniques for embedding all types of materials into clay & for creating windows in clay. We will also explore ways to create faux metal-like surfaces.

## Saturday workshop: Mini Clay Quilts

"In this non-traditional approach to quilt making, we will use polymer clay to create individual quilt squares. Each square will have an intricate design leading to an overall beautiful, jewel-like quilt. We will take the day to explore the many surface possibilities using polymer clay. Our experiments in clay will push the medium to the max, emphasizing a layered approach. A myriad of mixed media techniques will be used to create each handmade quilt square. These techniques will include using molds, stamping, painting the raw clay, using mica and embossing powders, gold leaf, beading and embedding metal, fabric, paper and jewelry into the clay. By the end of the day, students will be able to arrange their squares and glue them to a substrate to create a clay quilted masterpiece!"



You may sign up for either one or both days.

The reliquary techniques taught Friday can be used in the Saturday mini clay quilt class.

ONE DAY: \$105

BOTH DAYS: \$175

*Important: Your check must be received no later than March 1st. If we do not get the number of participants needed to financially support the event, we will have to cancel. You may post-date your check to April 15, 2012.*

Send your check to: Susan Mueller 20 W. Ranch Trail, Morrison, CO. 80465

*Be sure to indicate which day or both days:*

One day: \_\_\_\_ Friday (\$105) \_\_\_\_ Saturday (\$105)

Both Friday & Saturday: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$175)

*The workshops will be held at the Lockwood Community Fellowship, 1254 Union, Lakewood, CO*



## *Exploring the Rainbow with Tina Holdman*

### *New Age*

I found this rather nifty new age calendar that had rather complex and fabulous images of faeries and whatnot in it. The color palettes were rich and unusual and I just could not help myself from making several recipes inspired from these images. Most of the colors are saturated and mid to mid dark tones.

The Mid Raspberry, Violet Grape and Medium Purple Blue go together quite well with little contrast with each other but are a lovely same tone color combination. The Medium Warm Brown, Deep Yellow and Sunrise Orange also go together well, but with more contrast to each other. I do not, to be honest, necessarily like all these colors together, but do like them together in various combinations very well. Everyone's taste is different, so play with these colors and see what you come up with in combinations.

Premo colors you will need to mix this collection are: White, Ecru, Burnt Umber, Raw Sienna, Orange Alizarin Crimson, Zinc Yellow, Cadmium Yellow, Purple, Cobalt Blue, Ultramarine Blue, and Violet.

#### **#1 Medium Warm Brown**

2 parts Premo White  
2 parts Premo Ecru  
2 parts Premo Burnt Umber  
2 parts Premo Raw Sienna  
1 part Premo Orange  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  part Premo Alizarin Crimson

#### **#2 Deep Yellow**

2 parts Premo Ecru  
1 part Premo Zinc Yellow

#### **#3 Sunrise Orange**

2 parts Premo Orange  
1 part Premo Cadmium Yellow  
1 part Premo White  
1 part Premo Ecru

#### **#4 Mid Raspberry**

5 parts Premo Alizarin Crimson  
2 parts Premo White  
1 part **#**

#### **# 5 Violet Grape**

5 parts Premo Violet  
3 parts Premo Purple  
1 part Premo White  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  part Premo Alizarin Crimson  
Premo Orang

#### **#6 Medium Purple Blue**

2 parts Premo Cobalt Blue  
2 parts Premo Purple  
1 part Premo Violet  
1 part Premo White  
1 part Premo Ultramarine Blue

# It's a party ... and you won't want to miss it!

## *Here's a note from Laura Schiller, Event Chair*

Dearest Ladies of the First Water, Gentle Bugs & other life forms that love to have fun:

We're all set for our annual Holiday Recovery Party on 28th, 2012! This is a reminder to those who have already volunteered & plea for help from those who haven't!

**Set-UP** The party begins at 10 a.m. and set-up will begin at 9:30 a.m. Suzanne McGuirk, Tracy Rosen & Janice Calm will be handling table decorations but need a few sturdy folks to help with tables and chairs.

**Silent Auction:** The GREAT Angie K., Maggie Giza, Tina M. & Sue M. have volunteered to honcho the Silent Auction. This event is tons of fun & the money raised helps to support equipment purchases and special events. Please bring small like-items bagged & keep in mind quality, clay-related things are best-sellers. No garage sale junk, please!

**Gallery Table:** Our wonderful Karen Sexton has volunteered to help with this and I'll be helping a bit if I can. This is your opportunity to display your own work & possibly sell it. Price-tag your creations & plan to act as your own cashier. I plan to bring the Swap history so you can see what we've done in past years. Perhaps you'll get an idea for a swap & if you do, please let me know. This Show & Tell is a wonderful part of our party & we all enjoy seeing what our creative and talented members have been doing!

**Food!** Helen M., Tina M., Kathy H., Karen S. and Peg Harper will be bringing soup in crock pots. Everyone else is assigned either a salad or bread. (Dessert goes without saying...) Helen, Patty S., Milli, Diana A. and Clare P. will set up and clear the food. **LEFTOVERS:** Please plan to take your own leftover food home. You may want to swap or give it away or if you're like me, beg, borrow & steal any and all leftover food in sight ... ha ha ha!

**Gift Exchange:** Debra W. & Angie K. will honcho this awesome afternoon event. Bring a wrapped gift worth \$10-20. It can be a clay-related purchased item or something you've created. Participants will draw a # to establish order we select gifts. You can either select an wrapped gift or 'steal' one that's already been opened. We limit the number of times a gift can be stolen & whoever gets it the 3rd time around keeps it!

**Clean-up:** The fantastical Marian Gurnee & Nancy Lane will be helping with this, but we need EVERYONE to pitch-in to help! Putting your table away, cleaning up the kitchen, folding up chairs ... it all has to be done & if we each do our part, it's a small task. Please plan to stay until all the clean-up is done!

Tina G. will have the library open, so be sure to return your check-outs. Thanks Tina!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend! This party is a blast!

*Laura Schiller*

# Tina's Treasures by Tina McDonald

Inspiration corner is more of a resource corner this time around. Karen and Barb asked me where I found the interesting brass bezel frame I brought to the retreat. So here is the info on the ones I bought from Nice-Studio on eBay, as well some of my other favorites that you don't need a wholesale account for.

When I look for jewelry settings, I look on eBay, Etsy and Artfire. I usually start with Ebay and look for the "free shipping" checkbox. I search for the following phrases and then put the ones I like in my favorites list since chances are the same sellers will list similar items: "bezel tray",

"bezel frame", "bezel setting", "bezel cup", "cabochon frame", "cabochon tray", cabochon setting", "pendant tray", "pendant setting", "pendant frame" "pendant mount" "pendant base", "pendant blank". Next, I substitute earrings, pins, bracelet, charm, locket, cameo, or brooches for "pendant". So here are my favorite stores for jewelry frames and settings. I know the list is long, but during a bout of insomnia, I literally glanced at every item on the three sites that matched the above criteria and were consistent sellers of the items.

Happy Claying! *Tina McDonald*

## EBAY

<http://stores.ebay.com/nice-studio/ i.html? nkw=tray&submit=Search& sid=794148036>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/bead-wholesale/ i.html?rt=nc& nkw=frame& sid=228645488& trksid=p4634.c0.m14.11513& pgn=5>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/thestylehome/Others-/ i.html? nkw=setting&submit=Search& fsub=11121121& sid=349587288>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/lalang-accessory-supply/ i.html? nkw=frame&submit=Search& sid=985712464>  
[http://myworld.ebay.com/the\\_mystical\\_portal](http://myworld.ebay.com/the_mystical_portal) (look in their stamping and embossing for the pendant blanks)  
<http://stores.ebay.com/RoseGardenShop2010/ i.html? nkw=frame&submit=Search& sid=1013656310>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/connys-gallery/ i.html? nkw=frame&submit=Search& sid=430922122>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/LingsGiftShop/ i.html? nkw=setting&submit=Search& sid=1043466782>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/sun-jewelry/ i.html?rt=nc& nkw=frame& sid=1019751706& trksid=p4634.c0.m14.11513& pgn=2>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/BEADAHOLIQUE/ i.html?rt=nc& nkw=frame& sid=1121778& trksid=p4634.c0.m14.11513& pgn=2>  
<http://www.ebay.com/sch/2010butterfly001/m.html? nkw=frame& sacat=0& odkw=blank& osacat=0& trksid=p3911.c0.m270.11313>  
<http://www.ebay.com/sch/apollo-beads/m.html? nkw=frame& sacat=0& odkw=& osacat=0& trksid=p3911.c0.m270.11313>  
<http://www.ebay.com/sch/beadnumen/m.html? nkw=frame& sacat=0& odkw=setting& osacat=0& trksid=p3911.c0.m270.11313>  
<http://www.ebay.com/sch/yy-jewelry/m.html? nkw=frame& sacat=0& odkw=blank& osacat=0& trksid=p3911.c0.m270.11313>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/jewelry-warehouse-online/ i.html? nkw=frame&submit=Search& sid=790625284>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/AngelTearUSA/ i.html? nkw=frame&submit=Search& sid=612168327>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/finding-queen/ i.html? nkw=frame&submit=Search& sid=662367091>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/diyfittingshop/ i.html?rt=nc& nkw=frame& sid=742789291& trksid=p4634.c0.m14.11513& pgn=2>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/bead-wholesale/ i.html? nkw=frame&submit=Search& sid=228645488>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/jewelry-365days/ i.html? nkw=frame&submit=Search& sid=820464678>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/lingyunlv/ i.html? nkw=frame&submit=Search& sid=783960053>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/Marvelous-Beads/ i.html? nkw=frame&submit=Search& sid=596556004>  
<http://stores.ebay.com/AllUWantandNeed/ i.html?rt=nc& nkw=frame& sid=237273999& trksid=p4634.c0.m14.11513& pgn=1> (pin settings)  
<http://stores.ebay.com/Redscopes-Emporium/Jewellery-making-blanks-/ i.html? fsub=2176760015& sid=171312685& trksid=p4634.c0.m322>

## Etsy

[http://www.etsy.com/shop/bunnysundries?section\\_id=5149819](http://www.etsy.com/shop/bunnysundries?section_id=5149819)  
[http://www.etsy.com/shop/AsunderDestashSupply?section\\_id=7969250](http://www.etsy.com/shop/AsunderDestashSupply?section_id=7969250)  
[http://www.etsy.com/shop/kawaiisupply007?section\\_id=7133989](http://www.etsy.com/shop/kawaiisupply007?section_id=7133989)  
[http://www.etsy.com/shop/fr123?section\\_id=7058106](http://www.etsy.com/shop/fr123?section_id=7058106)  
[http://www.etsy.com/shop/IdaFindings?section\\_id=8166269](http://www.etsy.com/shop/IdaFindings?section_id=8166269)  
[http://www.etsy.com/shop/happysupplies?section\\_id=6476112](http://www.etsy.com/shop/happysupplies?section_id=6476112)  
[http://www.etsy.com/search?search\\_submit=&q=bracelet+setting&view\\_type=gallery&ship\\_to=US](http://www.etsy.com/search?search_submit=&q=bracelet+setting&view_type=gallery&ship_to=US)

## Artfire

<http://www.artfire.com/ext/shop/studio/happysupplies/0/0/148780>  
<http://www.artfire.com/ext/shop/studio/canterburylane/0/0/72326>  
<http://www.artfire.com/ext/shop/studio/Maddysupplystore/0/0/192871/magnetic>  
<http://www.artfire.com/ext/shop/studio/solvio/0/0/144354>  
<http://www.artfire.com/ext/shop/studio/moriam87/0/0/89192>  
<http://www.artfire.com/ext/shop/studio/findingskingdom/0/0/35918#ext/shop/studio/findingskingdom/2/7/35918/ajax>  
<http://www.artfire.com/ext/shop/studio/chinafindings/0/0/130645>

**Mad about Molds** - polymer clay molds of cabochon settings

<http://www.madaboutmolds.com/Cabochon%20Setting%20Molds.htm#ecwid:category=1143347&mode=category&offset=0&sort=normal>

## *Fall Make it Take It Retreat*



"Step away from the oven,  
please ma'm!"



Ask anyone who attended and they're bound to agree that our annual "Make It Take It" Fall Retreat was memorable! Above are a few real and *imagined* pictures from the event. Ask Sue M., Kathy Ham or the Lakewood Fire Department about details!

### *Coming Events*

January 28th -Holiday Recovery  
Party  
February 25th—Clay Day  
March 24th—Clay Day  
April 20-21 Laurie Mika Workshop



### *MHPCG Board of Directors*

President—Peg Harper  
Vice President—Sue Mueller  
Secretary—Rosanne Thompson  
Treasurer—Helen McKee  
Librarian—Tina Gugeler  
Webmaster—Janice Calm  
Program Chair—Debbra Woznik  
Newsletter Editor—Karen Sexton

# ETC.

In Tina G's Women's Connection class on image transfers, she was talking about how neat it would be to do an image transfer of a photo of a loved one, and maybe do a more line drawing of the photo that you can use photoshop or Gimp (a free alternative to photoshop). I then mentioned an app on Facebook that allows you to cartoon yourself, but I've found Facebook's app makes you download some other junk. So I did a little more research and I found a freeware photo manipulation program that is VERY simple to use that allows you to cartoonize/posterize (simplifies colors) and allows you to do a pen and ink drawing for B&W images. I found the best result to do a line drawing was to first use the "cartoon 1 feature", then save a copy of that image, and reopen the saved image and then do the "pen and ink 2".

The free software can be found at:  
[www.fotosketcher.com](http://www.fotosketcher.com).

If you are interested in more advanced photo imaging software, GIMP is free alternative to Photoshop. Both GIMP and Photoshop require significantly more memory than the fotosketcher software. <http://www.gimp.org/downloads/>

And if you want to try your hand at a free alternative to CorelDraw or Adobe Illustrator, there is Inkscape, open-source illustration program called Inkscape\*. It's also as much of a memory hog as it's name brand cousins.

\*<http://inkscape.org/download/> (scroll down to compiled versions)

Here is a website that has a lovely gallery of PC designs submitted by members (free to join) and lists a number of free and low cost tutorials under the "tutescentral" tab that have been submitted. Many of the tutorials are on etsy, but if you've tried finding tutorials on Etsy, it can be frustrating at the sheer number of tutorials and lack of quality on some of them. <http://www.voila.eu.com/index.php>

Tina McDonald



I had a few people ask me where I found the free designs I used in my demo on image transfers. Here is the link:

<http://sharegfx.net/graphic-design/vector/02/07/download/cute-floral-design-elements.html>

If you have a few hours to kill, they have some gorgeous stock vectors - I usually use their search function and type in ornaments, frames or elements. (Thanks, Tina M.)

<http://www.jewelry-and-polymerclay-tutorial-heaven.com/tutorials.html#axzz1bNlKn7Hf>

Also check out the rest of the site for beading, macrame, and jewelry making tutorials

[http://desiredcreations.com/howto\\_desk.htm](http://desiredcreations.com/howto_desk.htm) Many well-written free tutorials on a variety of topics by California artist Desiree McCrorey.

Are you interested in using resin but don't know much about it?

Check out the informative videos at: <http://epoxyjewelry.com/tips.html> (Thanks, Marian Gurnee)

Signing work: Zig Photo Signature pens in black or white work well. (Thanks Marian Gurnee)