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# The MILE HIGH POLYMER CLAY GUILD

## THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



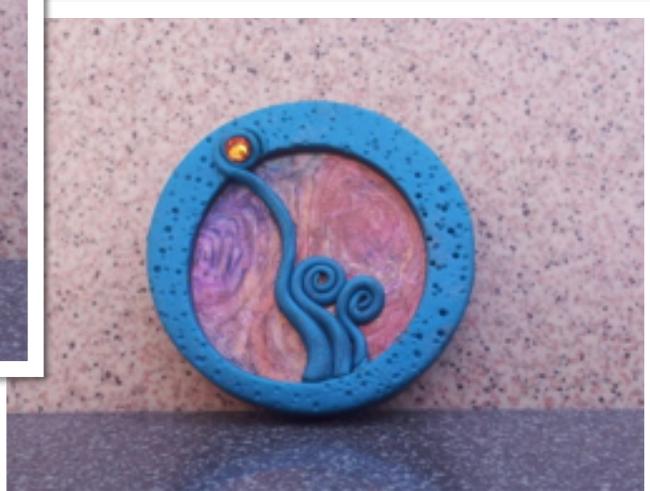
Hi Everyone,

My new studio is happening! I've ordered furniture and spent a Saturday evening shopping at Ikea. Hopefully, I will have pictures to share by the next newsletter. I did get to play with clay yesterday. I took Sage Bray's class at the Great Create and had a blast. We mixed textures with mica powders and inks, something I tried when I was new to polymer with less than wonderful (much less wonderful) results. I'm pleased with this new effort which is shown below. I think these will be pendants someday.

Be thinking about what you want to work on at the Make and Take in November. It's always a lot of fun. My dad is getting a legend award in Baton Rouge so I won't be there for the September meeting but plan on seeing everyone in October.

Happy claying.

Clare





## *Tina's Silk Screen on Clay Class- August 30, 2014*



This was really a fun time had by all!! It was a one day class starting at 9 am and going until about 5 pm. We had about 17-20 members who took the class done by Tina. And for most, I believe it was a new adventure in seeing what more we could do to polymer clay.

During the class we learned how to create our own silk screens. It reminded me a lot of college classes in photography. There were light sensitive materials involved and some scrubbing of film to remove the area that was not exposed to the sun. Luckily, we had mostly sunny weather to do our exposures.

For most of us, this class took us out of our standard polymer clay creating and had us discover another tool and another way to create and make our wonderful creations.

# Exploring the Rainbow

WITH TINA HOLDMAN

## COLOR RECIPE COLLECTION #35-- BEHR'S INTENSE GREENS #1



This color collection is a set of greens that are rather unique. I find myself mixing green color recipes probably more than any other color. It isn't my favorite color, and I came to the conclusion that greens were a "neutral" color in a palette. You show me about any collection of colors, and I can probably find a green that will work with it. I had made so many green recipes in the past; I purposely stopped including them until now.

These colors are new and should not repeat any green recipe I have made in the past. I used the Behr paint chips to find some unique colors and used the names and numbers of those Behr's colors. Not many Premo colors are used in these recipes, but this collection of greens gives a great demonstration on how proportion is everything.

Premo colors you will need to mix this collection are: Wasabi, Sunshine, Green, White and Turquoise.

### **#1 Lime Pop (S-G-400)**

3 parts Premo Wasabi  
1 part Premo Sunshine  
¼ part Premo Green

### **#2 Green Crush (S-G-410)**

5 parts Premo Wasabi  
1 part Premo Green

### **#3 Limeade (S-G-420)**

2 parts Premo Wasabi  
1 part Premo Green

### **#4 Sparkling Apple (S-G-430)**

2 parts Premo Wasabi  
2 parts Premo Green  
1 part Premo White

### **#5 Green Acres (S-G-440)**

1 part Premo Wasabi  
1 part Premo Green

### **#6 Herbal Tea (S-G-450)**

4 parts Premo Green  
2 parts Premo Turquoise  
1 part Premo Wasabi

# *“Make it and Take it” Fall Retreat*

WHEN: NOVEMBER 7-8, 2014

WHERE: LOCHWOOD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The retreat will start on **Friday, November 7th** around **noon**. On Friday, the hours will be from 12-9 pm for those who do not plan to stay overnight. A pizza dinner will be done that night. A sleepover at the church is optional. So, if you plan to sleepover bring your most comfy sleeping bags and slippers and enjoy “playing in the clay” whenever you want...not to mention have fun with your other polymer clay co-horts!!

On **Saturday, November 8th**, the official start time is **8am**. And the end of the retreat will come at **3pm** that same day. Lunch on Saturday is “bring your own”...or go out to get it...hehhehe! The cost to this retreat is \$15.00.

This is an informal, open studio event so plan to bring your current projects to work on. There will be demonstrations and informal sharing. The Friday night meal is included in the \$15.00 registration fee. Kathy Ham, our top-notch coordinator will be asking for volunteers on this event, so plan to pitch in!

To make your reservation for this retreat write a check for \$15.00 and make it payable to MHPCG. Send the check to:

Sherilyn Dunn ([sbdunn1@comcast.net](mailto:sbdunn1@comcast.net))  
7110 W. 20th Avenue Apt. 104  
Lakewood, Colorado 80214

# Mehndi Techniques for Clay

BY TINA MCDONALD

Long before there was Zentangle, there was Mehndi which, if you aren't aware, is the use of Henna to create "temporary tattoos." The tradition is a ceremonial art form that originated in India and is hugely popular for wedding ceremonies for covering the bride's arms and feet in intricate designs. Ground henna mixed with water is piped using small cones similar to the ones used in cake decorating and left on the skin for hours. When washed off, the stain from the henna lasts up to a month. Now why in the heck is Tina M. telling us about Mehndi, when this is a polymer clay newsletter? Well, three reasons:

1. One of the first crafts I ever did, besides sewing, was tatting lace, so the lacy floral designs appeal to me a bit more than some of the tangles I've seen.
2. I'm cheap, and while there are a lot of Zentangle books out there, there aren't a whole lot of free ones, although <http://tanglepatterns.com/> is a hugely wonderful resource. There are a LOT of free Mehndi e-books out there. Check out <http://www.hennapage.com/henna/what/freebooks/>.
3. I've been playing around with how to do some brush embroidery, a cake-decorating technique, on polymer clay. Trying to "pipe" liquid polymer clay was NOT one of my best ideas. In fact, it was a big mistake--very, very messy! It finally dawned on me (huge DUH!) that maybe I should try some Scribbles dimensional fabric paint instead. The colored Katoclay® is a lovely idea in theory, but what happens if that bottle sets for a few months??? I had a mess of glops, even after trying to "stir". The mica particles gravitate to the bottom, and I was left with a very sticky, very thick sludge. If you feel the need to use break out paper or plastic piping bags and cake tips, use modeling paste or thick-bodied acrylics instead of the pre-colored liquid Katoclay®. Your hands, tools, clothes, sink, and so on will be much happier with you. You could also use the Mehndi patterns to make texture sheets, use image transfers, or carve into the clay.

Here is a quick link to view some of the mehndi designs out there: <http://www.craftionary.net/2011/08/eid-celebration-new-henna-mehndi-designs.html>

# Guild Demonstrations



## *Megan's Creatures- July 2014*

Megan did a wonderful job showing us how to make cute little creatures in July during our July guild meeting. It constantly amazes me what a little clump of clay can become. These little creatures that Megan showed us were sooooo fun!!! She finds little figures she in books and then uses and manipulates polymer clay into her own fun little pals with some manipulation of polymer clay!

## *Angela's Face Cane- August 2014*

Angela K. showed us how to create the face cane at our August meeting. I myself have never tried doing a face cane and watching Angela put this cane together was a joy. With caning everything starts out simple and then builds and builds upon itself until you come to your end result.



## *Marian's Inclusions- September 2014*

Everyone had a fun time as Mariam explained the fun that could be found in putting elements such as crayon pieces, glitter, embossing powders, spices, and even sand into polymer clay and getting some very fun effects. We walked away with many more things to try out with Mayd Marian's renditions of fun Inclusions with polymer clay.

# The 40 West Update

With Sherilyn Dunn

The big news, of course, is the deadline for the “From Farm to Plate” exhibit. This can be anything food, including sculpture, jewelry, and so on. The deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup> and *all submissions are to be done via e-mail*. This is a juried show. You will be notified if your piece is chosen for the exhibit. Check the Call for Entries at: [http://www.40westarts.org/uploads/40W\\_Farm\\_to\\_Table\\_Art\\_Banquet\\_and\\_Jello\\_Mold\\_competition\\_CALL\\_FOR\\_ENTRIES\\_6.1.14.pdf](http://www.40westarts.org/uploads/40W_Farm_to_Table_Art_Banquet_and_Jello_Mold_competition_CALL_FOR_ENTRIES_6.1.14.pdf)

A few things to keep in mind about this exhibit:

- While we won't receive special artistic consideration, 40 West is definitely looking for our submissions.
- Each submission costs \$5.00 for members, \$10.00 for nonmembers. The whole guild is members.
- Check the Call for Entries to make sure your submission meets their detailed requirements. Entries falling outside those requirements will be dismissed out of hand.

Do your best and good luck!!

The current exhibit is “Art of Motion”. It's a digital arts display with entries from all over the world. While I haven't been up to see the whole thing, I saw some of the pieces as they were installed. I can tell you, it's an interesting and involving display! I'm planning to go before this month's meeting, so ask me about it!

The Edge Theater is presenting A Steady Rain through Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>. As members of 40 West, we do get a discount on tickets.

By the way, 40 West has been certified by the state as a creative district. Only eleven of those exist in the state! This should result in more exposure for the district, which includes us! This is very exciting! Visit the 40 West website for more information on this development. [www.40WestArts.org](http://www.40WestArts.org)

Last, but hardly least, the Call for Entries for the first exhibit of 2015, “The 4 Seasons of Colfax”, is up on the website. This is all a juried show, with e-mail submissions. Check it out at: [http://www.40westarts.org/uploads/40W\\_Colfax\\_4\\_seasons\\_CALL\\_FOR\\_ENTRIES\\_July\\_2014\\_for\\_Feb\\_2015\\_show.pdf](http://www.40westarts.org/uploads/40W_Colfax_4_seasons_CALL_FOR_ENTRIES_July_2014_for_Feb_2015_show.pdf)

There's always something going on at 40 West! Join me for the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday meeting/reception at 1560 Teller for the latest. The upcoming dates are:

Sept. 24, 2014

October 25, 2014

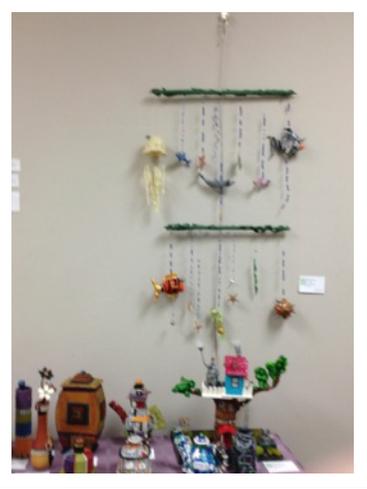
Nov. 26, 2014

(I'll have to update you on December)

January 28, 2014



## 40 West Gallery: Member's Exhibit



This was a really fun exhibit!! For the first time since being teamed up with the 40 West Gallery, members of Mile High Polymer Clay Guild were able to display set out and display their work there as a group.

I was thrilled to see many of our member's put something into this exhibit. There were even a few that sold some pieces while the Member's Exhibit was going on. Through Sherilyn Dunn, I also was told that the 40 West Gallery is thrilled to have MHPCG as a part of their Gallery. During the member's show, the MHPCG was given an entire section (room) to display in.

Sherilyn and I attended the Exhibit's

Reception and 40 West laid out what their plans were for future shows and where else they would be influencing the area at large. So, if you get the chance go check out the coming shows they have planned for the next year...and look to see if there is something that will "tickle your fancy"...

-Laura J Schiller

# So You Want a Wire Jig

BY TINA McDONALD

I'm at a point in my life, with my health issues, where I really can't justify spending \$199 on a tool that might make my life a little easier, but also would make my work look like a cookie cutter clone of someone else's. I'm talking about the "Now That's A Jig" tool, available from [Brenda Schweder](http://www.BrendaSchweder.com) on <http://www.Etsy.com>. I'm not saying that the tool isn't a lot better than the other wireworking jigs out on the market, because I've bought a couple wire jigs that were total trash. I'm just saying I can't afford it. Heck, all I can afford to use for planning out designs is steel wire from Dollar Tree. So what's a girl to do when she's fed up with the cheaper jigs coming undone, and she'd really like to have a production jig that she can make cookie cutter clones of her own work, and say, Dover clipart books? Well, I could dig out some of the hardwood and plywood scraps I have from other projects, and draw or find some copyright-free scrollwork on the net. If you use pine, the nails will pull out a lot faster when you aren't expecting it.

Ok, but what to use for pegs? Well, the easiest to think of and find for me were the OOK® picture hanging nails. You don't even have to hammer those suckers in straight. But what if I want to use a supersize peg? A drill and a dowel peg and some wood glue will work for something permanent. A screw or lagbolt work for a temporary peg, but it's kind of a pain to have to unscrew after each time. Ah, but then I came across an instructables web site that had blind rivets as the pegs, and blind rivets come in graduated sizes. It also suggested some brass rod from the hobby section and filling the part in between the rivet and the rod with plaster. I'm not giving out the link to said instructable because it does blatantly steal and use the "wigjig" template. Hmm, still though, I like the blind rivet idea. Harbor Freight, here I come with my 20% off coupon.

Here is a site with a homemade jig using finishing nails. <http://moonflygirl.blogspot.com/2011/07/making-whales.html>. I would suggest naming your fixed use jig, and indicating with a sharpie where the wire starts and ends, how long a wire you need (that would be for the design and at least two inches to hold onto), and a line with an arrow showing what direction to go, if the design is a keeper. Here is an example of a fishing lure jig that shows the directionality: [http://120thingsin20years.blogspot.com/2010\\_08\\_01\\_archive.html](http://120thingsin20years.blogspot.com/2010_08_01_archive.html). As you can see, it's a lot easier to follow when you come back to the jig after a while, and it is pounded in so that the design is on the backside from the heads of the nails. I can't nail straight to save my life, but if you can, go for it!

# Book Reviews

WITH TINA McDONALD

## “BEAD TECHNIQUES- CLAY JEWELRY WITH BEAD ROLLERS” BY LINDA PETERSON

*Bead Techniques - Clay Jewelry With Bead Rollers* is a 19-page booklet that does manage to pack in a few interesting techniques and shows several appealing stringing examples. The techniques to make the beads rely heavily on inking, painting, or coating the bead with pearlex after they are formed using makeup sponges or shaving cream. There is a detailed example of using a bullseye cane to decorate a bead before it gets rolled out, and a very cool example of a faux dichroic glass bead using metal leaf and the Piñata inks, as well as dipping the beads into UTEE (ultra-thick embossing powder). The turquoise bead that uses the food chopper to add both marbling and a bit of unsmoothed texture was a nice touch. There is a net technique for creating a snakeskin effect. There are a couple examples of using pewter metal embossing sheets to make bails and frames for the focal beads. I'm not sure how well that would actually look, since my experience with the pewter has been that it looks a bit cheesy. If you pay attention to page 3, you find out how you can get additional shapes from the rollers using "smash and rock" and flattening techniques, but I'm not sure how she goes about flattening just three sides of a bead.

## “THE POLYMER CLAY ARTIST’S GUIDE”: A Directory of Mixes, Colors, Textures, Faux Finishes, and Surface Effects ” by Marie Segal

For Christmas, I would like a copy of *The Polymer Clay Artist's Guide*. Seriously! There are many books that might have one new technique in them, if you are lucky. This book makes them all pale by comparison. I really think I've seen a few dozen "Oh, what a good idea, I'll have to try" techniques. The book's a combination of large thumbprint-size tiles listing the directions and supplies with gallery photos of some incredible projects. These techniques aren't tied just to jewelry. There are some incredible sculptures, including a cake topper that I had to use my reading glasses at just the right distance to make sure that it wasn't a photo of a real bride and groom with just polymer flowers. The sections are: Inclusions, and Additions, Texture Effects, Printing Effects, Caning and Stacking, Patterns and Motifs (using mica shift, liquid polymer, carving, Sutton slice, or extruded coils), Pave' (rhinestones or stickers) and Mosaic, Applied Clay, Mixed Media, and Encaustic Wax. She did skimp on sculptural techniques, but not on the gallery photos of sculpted objects. Also, sorry, there are no flower or other replica canes, just abstract ones. There aren't a whole lot of step by step diagrams, but really, the descriptive captions for the tiles are very detailed. I love the idea of using a textured bead on a head pin to make a stamping tool. I also liked the thought of pushing clay up through a brass stencil and cutting off the risen portion to produce a *bas-relief* effect. I'm going to have to try what she calls her glass effect veneer using multiple layers of translucent clay that have been printed or stamped on. I also need to try the *sgraffito* effect using liquid clay and wire; using dimensional fabric paint; doodling with Lumocolor® pen; and....sigh. Make sure you check out this book when you have lots of time both to read and to play with the clay!



## *MHPCC Board:*

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**Tina Gugeler and Amy Broadhead**, Library

**Laura Schiller**, Newsletter Editor and Webmistress

**Diana Aungst**, Swapmeister and Historian

**Debra Woziak**, Programs

## *Future Events:*

“Make It and Take It” Fall Retreat  
November 7-8, 2014

## *Clay Days:*

On Saturdays:

October 25, 2014  
November 22, 2014  
December- NO Clay Day

