

Mile High Polymer Clay Guild

The President's Address:

Hi everybody,

I've been very busy with the work that pays for the polymer clay so haven't had much studio time. I did get my heart swaps done so I feel pretty productive. For those of you in the swap, I made two designs and many variations. I started out by making a mold of an ornate plastic heart pendant, then making it again when I didn't like how the first one came out. I mixed up a blend of reds, pinks, and pearl clays and started molding my pendants. I quickly ran out of the blend and started grabbing clay from all over. Then the mica powders joined me on my worktable and I started coloring the molded hearts. On some, I also added a little flower at the top. Before I was finished, there was at least one treated with oil paint and another colored with alcohol inks. I can't resist experimenting when the opportunity arises.

With one set of swaps complete, I started on my second set. I started out using a heart cookie cutter and then realized I could manipulate the clay after cutting to make more stylized hearts. I baked these hearts and then painted them with Pebeo Prisme paints. There is a lot of variety in these hearts both in shape and colors. Fortunately, I learned from a demo on the Polymer Clay Adventure that I'm participating in, that I don't need to add a layer of resin to these. Here are some pictures to give you an idea of what they look like.

I'm looking forward to our retreat in June and Bettina Welker's class in August. It's great not having to travel farther than Lakewood to have a great clay experience.

Happy claying.

Clare



Exploring the Rainbow

with Tina Holdman



COLOR RECIPE COLLECTION #37--- **Lichen Metallics and Pearls**

This color collection resulted from trying to make rich colored metallics. The new Premo metallic colors are fairly saturated and opaque. The Premo expanded line of metallics makes it easier to make colored metal colors. Once you get started, it's hard to stop mixing, or at least it was for me.

My color inspiration was from a picture of a weaving with lichen colors that were quite different from each other, but blended together beautifully. This is a lovely palette that works together very well and is quite lush. They can, of course, be used separately as well or mixed with other metallic color recipes.

Premo colors you will need to mix this collection are: Antique Gold, Bright Green, Pearl, Gold, Blue Pearl, Bronze, Magenta Pearl, Purple Pearl and Peacock Pearl.

#1 Metallic Champagne

5 parts Premo Pearl
2 parts Premo Bright Green
1 part Premo Antique Gold
1 part Premo Gold

#2 Rich Gold

2 parts Premo Gold
2 parts Premo Antique Gold
1 part Premo Bright Green

#3 Metallic Shadow

2 parts Premo Blue Pearl
2 parts Premo Magenta Pearl
2 parts Premo Pearl
1 part Premo Purple Pearl
1 part Premo Bronze

#4 Metallic Rose

5 parts Premo Pearl
2 parts Premo Magenta Pearl
1 part Premo Purple Pearl
1 part Premo Bronze

#5 Pearlized Lichen Blue

4 parts Premo Magenta Pearl
2 parts Premo Blue Pearl
1 part Premo Peacock Pearl

#6 Pearl Turquoise Glow

6 parts Premo Pearl
2 parts Premo Peacock Pearl
2 parts Premo Blue Pearl

Laura Schiller's Kaleidoscope Cane Workshop



When: April 18, 2015 (9am-5/6 pm)

Where: Lochwood Christian Fellowship

Cost of the Workshop: \$75.00 per person

This one day (members only) class will focus on creating kaleidoscope patterns in polymer clay. It will highlight being able to predict and recreate kaleidoscope cane patterns. These canes will then be used in covering eggs. So, everyone will get the chance to cover an egg!!

Laura will be providing paper hand outs on her method, the boards, and eggs needed for the class. She asks that members have their clay conditioned before class and even some simple canes created ahead of time. She also suggests using Kato clay for this class, but the other clays can work too. Make sure you have contrasting colored clays to make your kaleidoscope canes.

Laura is planning on also bringing her own "recipe boards" and her cane work which she will be putting up for sale at the class if anyone is interested. There are still a few spots left in this class, so sign up and have a ball with Laura!! If you have any questions on the class, contact Sue Mueller at suemuellersmail@aol.com.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Laura's Kaleidoscope Cane/Egg Workshop

One day workshop \$75.00 for members _____

Send check made payable to MHPCG to: Susan Mueller

20 W Ranch Trail

Morrison, CO 80465

The “Buggy” Spring Retreat of 2015



When: June 12-13, 2015

Where: Lochwood Christian Fellowship

Theme: BUGS, BUGS AND MORE BUGS!!!

Cost: \$20.00 per member...if you pay your dues with this it will be \$35.00 altogether. (\$20 for the retreat and \$15 for dues.)

Hope you are all ready for this one...the “Buggy” Retreat of 2015 is almost here. And as everyone in the guild knows...it is one of the favorite events we all look forward to. This year the theme is BUGS!! Creepy, crawly, fun and fantastical BUGSS!! Create what you want bug wise. There will be demos on techniques to help create your bugs, door prizes, the infamous goodie bags, dinner (hopefully done by Chipotle again), and just a fantastic great time hangin’ out with the Mile High Polymer Clay Guild!!

To the left are examples of the bugs that were swapped at the guild a few years ago. If you Google “polymer clay bugs” you will find a variety of what can be done. Also check out Pinterest for the same thing...lots of great ideas!! Our own Laura Schiller had an article in the June 2010 issue of PolymerCAFE on bugs. If you have the issue, see how she creates bugs too.

Name: _____

Email: _____

_____ \$20.00 for the “Buggy” Spring Retreat

_____ \$35.00 for the “Buggy” Spring Retreat and Yearly Dues.

Contact Cheryl Row at rowcheron@msn.com to volunteer to help out with the retreat. And for more information on the event and/or sign up for the retreat contact Sue Mueller at suemuellersmail@aol.com. Make out a check to MHPCG and send it to:

Sue Mueller 20 W Ranch Trail Morrison, CO 80465

The January - March Review

The photos you see below are taken from the guild meetings in January through March. The photographers of our guild- Tina Gugeler, Holly Wolfe and Laura Schiller thought you would enjoy these fun and memorable photos...our hugs to you all!!





The Leaf Swap is ON, baby!!



“Rehashing” the Rules of the Swap is below:

That’s right, ladies and Stan...yet again!! Diana A. announced at the last March guild meeting we are going to do another swap at our June meeting. The final time to sign up for this swap is at the May meeting. Leaves. Leaves here and leaves there....leaves everywhere!! (I am no Dr. Suess...but hey, I’m trying!! hehehe!) Anyway, Here is the “low down” on what we have for this swap so far:

1. You must make 1 leaf for every person who participates in this swap and an extra set for the guild’s history collection.
2. If you sign up for the swap, you are obligated to make the leaves. There is no backing out.
3. Please feel free to make more leaves if you want to exchange or sell them with other fellow clay members.
4. If you want to participate in this swap or if you have any questions and/or concerns over the swap email Diana Aungst at

DLA1029@yahoo.com

If you sign up for a swap- **you must produce**. Or you will not be allowed to participate in any future swaps with the guild. There are a few exceptions to this rule: Death in the family or illness. However family or illness. However, if these occur, the individual still has to produce for the swap. They will be given an extra month to complete their items.

1. In the case that someone is not able to attend the swap, and we receive their swap items at a later date, it is the responsibility of those who attended the original swap to pick up those items at the next guild meeting. If these items are not picked up the guild may claim them and use them at their discretion.
2. A person who is not able to attend the swap, but has abided by the rules of the swap, can pick up their swap items no later than the next guild meeting. Otherwise, the last part of rule two will apply.
3. If you cannot attend for the swap, you must have your items made for the swap sent or given to the swapmeister ahead of time. It is the swapmeister’s responsibility to provide an address/information to those in the swap to send their items if they may be unable to attend.
4. Each person participating in the swap should also make 1 extra item for the Guild Collection. This is not mandatory-
5. Each person in the swap must include their information with the item they have created, this can be done by signing the piece they made or including a small card with it. Business card size to an index card size of information will work.

Bettina Welker Workshop!!

That's right, ladies and Stan!! Bettina Welker will be here in Colorado come August of 2015!! So mark your calendars and consider taking in this fun and fantastic workshop!! There is the option to do one or two days of this workshop. One day will be focused on Shadowbox Necklaces and the other will be on Hinged Bracelets.

Here is what we have so far on this workshop:

When: August 7 & 8, 2015

Where: Lochwood Christian Fellowship

Cost: 1 day (for members): \$125.00 per person

2 days (for members): \$175.00 per person

For non-members add \$30.00 to this cost.

We will have more information and sign up for this workshop in the next newsletter. In the meantime, we hope you will all take and interest and enjoy what Bettina has to offer. The pictures shown here are examples of what this workshop is all about. To look at more of Bettina's work, check out the site below:

www.ipernity.com/doc/bettinawelker



Book Reviews

with Tina McDonald

Living the Creative Life

by Rice Freeman-Zachary

Living the Creative Life by Rice Freeman-Zachary is a compilation of advice from several artists for exploring and inspiring how to get down to the business of actually being creative. The best quote I found from the book was in defining how to have a more creative life: “Instead of looking at the world as it is, look at everything as being full of possibilities. Instead of seeing what is, look for what could be. If you are an artist, look at everything as a possibility and inspiration because you know that ideas can come from anywhere.” It covers the difference between crafting (figuring out how to duplicate something you see” and creating art (literally making something from imagination and basic supplies). The book also covers the fact that imagination isn't enough. Playing and (gasp!) working at art is necessary in order to develop it. It suggests spending at least one hour a day (at least) of sitting with your creative materials and supplies and actually creating. It also gives a lot of advice in encouraging and teaching children on how to be more creative, which many children of this digital age might balk at. No TV, no video games? The author states that TV and video games “Are most of the time a way to turn off our minds and let ourselves coast along on a tidal wave of simplistic popular culture. Kids who spend most of their time in front of the TV aren't going to be making much of anything.” The book gives ideas from several artists on their studios, how they break “artist's block” and how they market their work. A few of the artists included make their living from their art. Many more in the book use their income from their art to supplement their day jobs. It's an interesting look at the views of many artists.

Japanese Inro

by Julia Hunt

Japanese Inro by Julia Hunt isn't a polymer clay technique book. It is a delightful book on the history and design of Japanese laquered Inro boxes. Think of it as a coffee table book with gorgeous photos of beautiful boxes as well as the text that describes the origins and manufacture of these delightful boxes. Traditional Inro boxes are tiered, with several stacking layers and were hung from the belts of males in Japan. They were adopted from larger Chinese boxes used to carry medicines. Inro translates into “seal box” and was used to carry everything from seals and inks, medicine, and coins to small bits of food. This book doesn't really go in depth into the detail of making the inro boxes from wood or paper, it recommends “then Inro Handbook” by Raymond Bushell for that, but it does give a description of the basics. I do wish that the book described the process of some of the laquer work, especially the *sumie tagidashie* or “ink painting” on the the background of gold or silver in more detail. The most impressive part of the book however, is not the history of these little boxes, but the photos. They are sure to solve even the worst artists block in the “ooh, how can I replicate that in polymer clay” sort of way. The use of texture plates, carving, colored pencils, mica powders, and sgraffito can be used to replicate most of the styles of the inro boxes depicted.

Book Reviews continued... with Tina McDonald

Handbook of Ornament by Frank Myers

<https://archive.org/details/handbookoforname00meyeruoft>

I recently found and downloaded this copy of Frank Myers "Handbook of Ornament." Best of all, It's totally FREE! Woo Hoo!! Don't worry about copyright, the earliest publication of it in Europe that I found was in 1849. While yes, I have gobs of Dover clipart books that are reproductions of earlier works, I've always assumed that there was considerable clean-up work done on the images via computer. Mr. Myers shows how the geometry works in putting together incredible fine line drawings. Do you hate geometry? Well, you don't have to fear lots of calculations, you get detailed step by step pictures. And the book just isn't about those geometric marvels. There are plenty of floral, animal, and architectural images to go around. We are talking just over 3000 images. And if you actually read the book, you get art history and terminology lessons as well. OK, I admit, the first time through I cheated and just looked at the illustrations. So go ahead and download it, you will be glad you did. And maybe if you're brave you can try to "finish" a few of his plates by hand, and you can see just how talented, steady, and busy his hands were at putting these illustrations together back in the mid 1800s. Download many of his plates that have been digitized into vector images and enjoy!!

Also check out www.archive.org, and www.gutenberg.org and type in the following terms for more free books that are in the public domain: ornament, design, pattern, art, embroidery, and carving.

EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA!!!

Fun Changes Coming:

Some of you might have noticed that we have a few new volunteers to things the guild offers.

1. **Store:** Kari Crist is now taking on this post and has also taken to getting our name tags made.
2. **Library:** Stan Estoll is now helping out here.

Thank you for your help, guys...and big hugs to each of you!!!

In our thoughts...

Sherilyn Dunn,
Kashia Clark, and
a few others in
our midst have
been having a
rough time
lately...from the
MHPCG...giants
hugs and
shoulders to lean
on...

Volunteers!!!

If you are planning on signing up for the Spring retreat or are signed up, We need volunteers to help out ... Everything from set up, tearing down, and oven wenchies!!

Please contact Cheryl Row who has graciously taken on this gigantic task!! Thanks Cheryl!!

Cheryl Row-
rowcheron@msn.com

**Until next time...adios, orivwaaa,
alveterzain...heeheeeeee!!**



MHPCG Board members:

President: Clare Pramuk

Vice President: Sue Mueller

Secretary: Kathy Ham

Treasurer: Sherilyn Dunn

Swapmeister/Historian:

Diana Aungst

Programs:

Debbra Woziak

Newletter Editor/Webmistress:

Laura Schiller

Library: Tina Gugeler, Amy Broadhead and
Stan Estoll

The Store: Kari Crist

