

NWPCG: See you on Sept 6!

From: Northwest Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter <newsletter@nwpcg.org>

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Northwest Polymer Clay Guild

Clay Play



August Highlights

NWPCG in FB

We were in Facebook Seattle!

by Ria Mendoza Hoyt

Yes, NWPCG had a small team demo inside the offices of Facebook (FB) in Seattle. It was most definitely a cool opportunity for the Guild that was made possible by Susan Locsin and the very willing participation of her hubby – who happens to work for FB – Arsenio Locsin. A huge thanks to the Locsins!

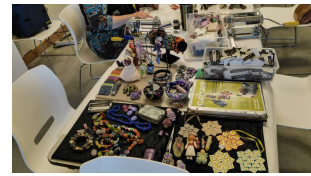
Arsenio gave us the grand tour and we were properly amazed and inspired with the cool work spaces, artworks and the abundance of employee comforts onsite (there was a massage room, music room, a couple of restaurants, several coffee and snack bars, sleeping nooks, a gym and lots more). Come on, massage in the office? I'd probably be happy sweeping the floors there just to enjoy those awesome benefits.



Inside the FB Pop-up Shop

Amidst all these goodies is another cherry, Facebook has a small room called the "Pop-up Shop" where vendors can sit and display their products and staff can come, browse or enjoy whatever's available. This is where we set-up the Guild's demo. It was pretty quiet at first. It was late afternoon and people were either passing by with dinner plates or have work to get to.

After a some time, we did get some of them to stop by and browse the beautiful samples that Maria Brown, Kim Day, Cathy Gilbert, Susan and myself brought over. We also had one guest, we'll



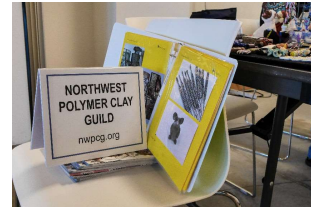
Members brought a wide collection of samples



Susan hard at work



Ria's doll



NWPCG at the Pop-up room



Cathy & Arsenio posing in the tilted room

General Meeting & Presentation

Sept 6 | 6:30 p.m.

| Artworks

We will have our regular

call her by the name "D" for now, sit with us and create some beads. She's very keen on learning more about polymer clay and promised to look us up, with her hubby, once they are settled in Seattle.



The beads D made

The three-hour session ended with dinner (one member who shall remain unnamed went nuts over nutella. Maria and I loved the keylime pie and Kim went for the snacks) and excited plans to make this into a regular session.

We were also in Monroe!

That's not the only place, the Guild has been to. On August 27th and September 2nd, the Guild was back at the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe, giving away our popular keychains and spreading our love of polymer clay. Demoing in this county fair were: Maria Brown, Cathy Gilbert, Andrea Rivers and Liz White.



NWPCG meeting followed by a Program on Faux Ceramics.

Southend Clay Day

TBA | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | [Hillside Community Church](#)

There will be no Clay Days on the southend for the month of September. [Check our website for updates.](#)

Connect on Pinterest

Look for our [Pinterest account](#) and share ideas and inspirations with us. [If you want to pin with us, email Ria.](#)

Connect on Instagram

Look for our account on [Instagram](#) and follow us! [If you want your project featured, just send Ria an email at \[newsletter@nwpcg.org\]\(mailto:newsletter@nwpcg.org\) with the photo and a caption.](#)

Amazon Smile

Did you know that we are an [Amazon Smile recipient](#)? Simply choose the Northwest Polymer Clay Guild as the recipient and with every eligible purchase you make using [this link](#), Amazon will donate 0.5%

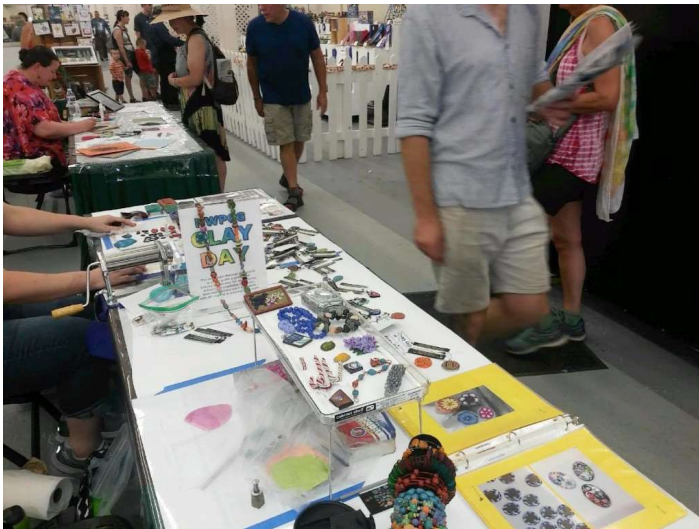


to our Guild.

Write for the newsletter

Do you have a product, book or tool you want to review, or perhaps you want to write a tutorial?

Email Ria.



Contact our Board Members

If you need to contact any of our Board Members, the full list of emails is available on our website. Please click here to view the list.

Then we're off to The Fair!

That's not the end of it, this month, we are going to be at the Washington State Fair under the grandstand. The easiest way to find our booth is to head for the Red Entrance and once you're in, look to the left side. We will be across the aisle from Artists in Action in Booth 111. We'll be at The Fair on:

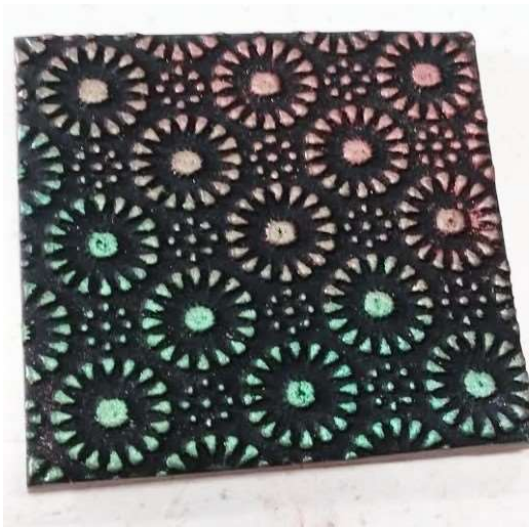
- September 14, Thursday from 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- September 15, Friday from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- September 23, Saturday from 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Spread the word!

Photo credits:

Maria Brown, Ria M Hoyt, Susan Locsin, Andrea Rivers, Liz White

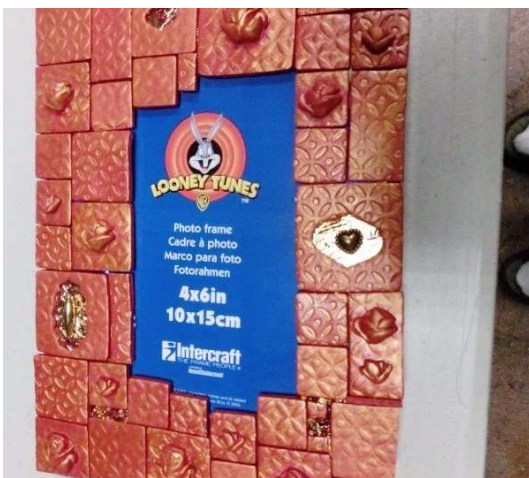
August Mosaic Program in Photos



Maria Brown's tiles



Using powdered pigments on tiles (left); Andrea Rivers' mosaic-decorated Altoid tin (right)



Cathy Gilbert's mosaic-decorated picture frame (left);
Charlie Nagel's ATCs titled "Looking at Leftovers" (right)

Tote Bag Challenge

by Susan Locsin

The library is hosting a tote design challenge! Select your inspiration from the library holdings. Take a picture of your inspiration and create something based on it. Bring it to the September or October meeting and there will be an informal vote after.

The winner's art will be adapted for embroidery on the new Guild totes. The winner will receive a free tote emblazoned with their design. Other members can pre-order a tote for delivery in November.

Guild Contributions

by Susan Locsin

Many of you knew Cheryll Simmons, a long time NWPCG member, friend and polymer clay enthusiast. Her wife, Kara Woods Hunnicutt, has graciously donated all of Cheryll's tools and clay to the Guild.

At our October 4th meeting, we will be sharing this treasure with Guild members. Please come with bags or containers for your finds. Among Cheryll's things were an LC Slicer and LC Extruder. Both will be added to the Guild library for use by all members at meetings.



President's Message | president@nwpcg.org

Fall is coming

While I have certainly enjoyed being President of this wonderful Guild, I am unable to fulfill my two-year term. My mother's health continues to challenge my patience, and I have been struggling a lot with all of my responsibilities.

I can remain President until the end of the year. Autumn is the time when we convene a nominations committee for whichever positions open up at the end of the year, and I would like President to be one of the open positions.

I will continue to promote the Guild and enjoy the company of my friends here. I am very sorry to be unable to continue with my responsibilities past December.

Liz White

September Program: Faux Ceramics

By Cathy Gilbert | Sept 6 | 6:30 p.m. | [Artworks](#)

Since I've been learning working with pottery, I have a new appreciation for the almost instant gratification of polymer clay. One of the great things about polymer work, is its imitative qualities. The September program will be exploring imitating ceramics with polymer clay with Holly Alanis. Come out and get some new ideas!

October Program: Clay Social

By Cathy Gilbert | October 4 | 6:30 p.m. | [Artworks](#)

Clay socials are always a fun time to get together and work on projects large and small. Fall will be arriving and there will be inspiration a-plenty with fall colors and Halloween coming up. Or get an early jump on Christmas (I don't know about you, but I ALWAYS need a whole lot of time to get my presents done). Or just drop by and visit your polymer clay friends. There's a reason they call it a clay social! Happy claying!

Faux Fossils

by Charles Nagel

At the last meeting people were intrigued by my "faux fossils" Artists Trading Cards. Someone suggested I write up an article for the newsletter on how to make them so here it is. I hope you enjoy it. Here's what we are going to need:



Materials:

- Natural objects: leaves, weeds, ferns, seed heads small shells, etc.
- Rubber stamps, other objects for making impressions
- 60-grit sandpaper
- White clay-lots!
- Brown clay, like burnt umber-a bit
- Acrylic paint: burnt umber

Tools and supplies:

- The usual things like pasta machine, tissue blade, etc.
- Waxed paper
- Shape cutters or templates.

The first part of this project is an eye-opener. When you walk around in your yard or neighborhood looking for leaves or other objects that might make good “fossils” you’ll be amazed by the variety of sizes and shapes and textures you’ll notice. What you are looking for are leaves with strong veins and ribs, seed-heads that are small enough to go through your pasta machine, any plant material that might create an interesting pattern when pressed into clay. When you go hunting, scissors and a plastic food storage box to hold your treasures are useful items to have with you on your quest. If you have access to a beach, look for small shells and seaweed fragments that can be used.



Rubber stamps of leaves or other forms in nature can be added to your

potential textures. Sometimes just for fun, I use a “Steampunk” gear or clock parts as a tongue-in-cheek suggestion that some day our machines and inventions will also become fossils.



Condition a large sheet of white clay, a small bit of brown clay, and partially mix them; a marbled look feels more “authentic” than a uniform light tan. Place the leaves you’ve collected on the sheet in a random arrangement; the formation of fossils in nature is chaotic, often cataclysmic event, and this is what you’re copying. Lightly crumple a sheet of waxed paper the same size as your clay sheet and press it over the leaves. Run the covered sheet through a pasta machine on its thickest setting.

Remove the waxed paper and the plant material. Sometimes, a needle tool can be helpful in prying off deeply embedded parts. If desired, add other impressions from sea shells, rubber stamps or other objects. For the authentic look, make only incomplete or partial impressions. Texture the surface lightly with sand paper. Using a shape-cutter or template, cut out a pleasing section that will be your finished Fossil Bed. I’ve been using this project to make Artists Trading Cards which requires a 2.5 by 3.5-inch template. An irregular shape might embellish a greeting card, an oval shape could become a pendant, or a slab might decorate an Altoids tin. It’s easy to think of many uses for this project.

Cure the clay in the usual manner. When the object is cool, scrub burnt umber acrylic paint onto the slab — a Dollar Store toothbrush is an idea tool for this. Immediately wipe most of the paint off the surface with a damp paper towel, leaving plenty of paint in the depressions. And there it is!

Photos by Cathy Gilbert and Liz White

Call for Contributions: Keychains

By Kim Day



Hello Clay Friends! Maria's husband calls us "clay friends" since it's easier than remembering names. Anyhoo, it's that time of year again where we prepare for our two big Guild demos – the Evergreen State Fair and the Washington State Fair. As part of our outreach, we give away keychains with the Guild's business card attached. Apparently, we got some rave reviews from last year's WA State Fair demos, which according to Terri, people never give rave reviews about.

Feel free to donate handmade clay beads, charms or cane slices and we can assemble them into keychains for you. I can also make the key rings available at the next few Guild meetings. Last year, we gave out over 1,000 keychains! They don't need to be complicated, people love them, even simple designs like lentil swirled scrap beads. Looking forward to seeing your keychain contributions!

Photo by Cathy Gilbert

Announcements

Edmonds Art Studio Tour



Edmonds Art Studio Tour will be held from Sept. 16-17. It is a self guided tour into artist's studios around Edmonds. Check it out and get inspiration to the max. For more info, go to edmondsartstudiotour.com. Our very own Meredith Arnold will be in Studio #16.

Creative Play Day Saturday with Christi Friesen



This is a relaxing, inspiring, creative time to work on projects, learn new techniques using polymer, epoxy clay, resin and other fun things while exploring a variety of techniques. You can create as much as you want or just chill and snack on chocolate! All materials are provided. [More info here.](#)

When: September 23
Where: Seattle
Price: \$45

Artful Vessels & Decorative Dishes with Christi Friesen



Create decorative shallow bowls using different techniques including sgraffito, veneers and tinting with pastels. You will create art vessels and explore working over forms using armatures as well as adding embellishments and surface treatments. Emphasis is on individual creativity, design, composition and use of mixed media with polymer. All the supplies are provided. [More info here.](#)

When: September 24
Where: Seattle
Price: \$95

Steampunk Hummingbird at Birdtail Beads



For those who are comfortable and familiar with polymer clay, this is a great project. You'll learn different ways to achieve a metal effect in clay and create a unique, steampunk inspired Hummingbird necklace or pin. [More info here.](#)

When: September 28
Where: Birdtail Beads, Bellevue
Price: \$45

[Visit the NWPCG website!](#)



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