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# Get ready for the NWPCG holiday party!

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

To: Maria Jam <mariajambrown@yahoo.com>

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## Guild Highlights: November Recap

By Kim Day | [polymerclay@gmail.com](mailto:polymerclay@gmail.com)

### All That Glitters is Glitter

Krithika gave us a wonderful and extensive demo on how to use glitter with stencils on polymer clay. Here is a quick summary for those that were unable to attend.



**Step 1:** Brush stencil side that will be in contact with the clay with Armorall (or

another release agent).

**Step 2:** Place stencil on clay, cover with deli paper, and use brayer or burnisher to attach it well

**Step 3:** Apply glitters – fingers work fine. If you are doing stripes, cover all but the area you want a certain color with strips of deli paper. After you apply the glitter, you move the strips. You want to fully cover the exposed areas.

**Step 4:** Before removing stencil, use a soft brush to wipe excess glitter off the sides of your clay sheet (and maybe on the top as well).

**Step 5:** Remove stencil, and attempt to remove any glitter that lands in the areas you didn't want covered.

**Step 6:** Use a cookie cutter to make your shape. Krithika uses Armorall on the cookie cutter edges.

### **Bonus tips**

Krithika also used a cheap hair spray to help hold the glitter in place before removing the screen. Adding resin (her first choice) after baking helps the colors really pop. The glitter does need to be sealed.

You can use the excess glitter on your work surface to fill in another stencil with mixed colors. Glitter can also be applied in random color dots in the stencil for a mosaic look. Screen stencils with big enough openings and a fine enough glitter can also make fun designs. Here is the supplier she used for her fabulous [holographic glitters, Pearl Pleasures](#).

### **Brush Embroidery**

I rushed through the demo in November, so here is a write up of what you should know. This is called MUD painting (a glass decorating compound), or brush embroidery (frosting on cookies). Both yield gorgeous search results on Pinterest. Here's one stolen picture for reference:



*Mud Painting*

With too stiff of a clay, you don't get a wonderful trail of color. Ball stylus worked well, and still a fun look, although not the one I was going for. If on unbaked clay, can also leave a fun texture.



*Embroidery with solid*



*Textures with stylus and needle tool*

With too much liquid clay, the mixture self levels and you do not get brush marks that stay in the clay.



*Too liquidy*

Perfect ratio is around 1:1 solid to liquid clay, or a nice spackle consistency.



*Clay spackle*

Put it in a ziploc bag for piping. Turn the bag inside out, scoop the clay frosting into a corner, turn right side out. Cut a small hole in the corner.



*Clay in piping bag*

The actual piped designs: you want to make an arched organic shape for a petal. Maybe a C or a squat M. Leave space between each of the petal lines. Use a very

still brush, or a toothbrush, and grab about halfway through your frosting stripe (inside/outside halfway, not side to side). Starting on the outsides, pull it down and in. You can pick a point towards the center that you're aiming for on all sides. This should leave a nice border on the outside, with gradually thinning lines of color towards the center.



*Using stiff brush to leave marks*

If you are doing a blossom with multiple lines of petals, you can do them in steps. For a rose work from the center petals and add extra outside. For a peony do the outside first so you can stack inside petals on top of your outer ones. For leaves, do a pointed upside down U, and again drag all the line to a point below the U. Since we're working with clay, we can do fun things like use two colors of frosting, do our flower on a skinner blend background that is in the exact flower shape to make shaded petals, and add things like dots and lines afterwards to help transform our flowers.



Hopefully this gave people much food for thought. If you are not working with a flat surface, use scrap clay to anchor your piece and to make it easily turnable.

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## Show & Tell



Old but newly-found creations by Cathy Gilbert



Worry beads by Dawn Gray



Earrings by Esther Schmidt



Jewelry set by Esther Schmidt



Jewelry set by Esther Schmidt



Jewelry set by Esther Schmidt





Functional magnet by Jerri Richardson



Magnet by Jerri Richardson



Mushroom by Jerri Richardson



Necklace by Jerri Richardson



Swirly beads by Jerri Richardson



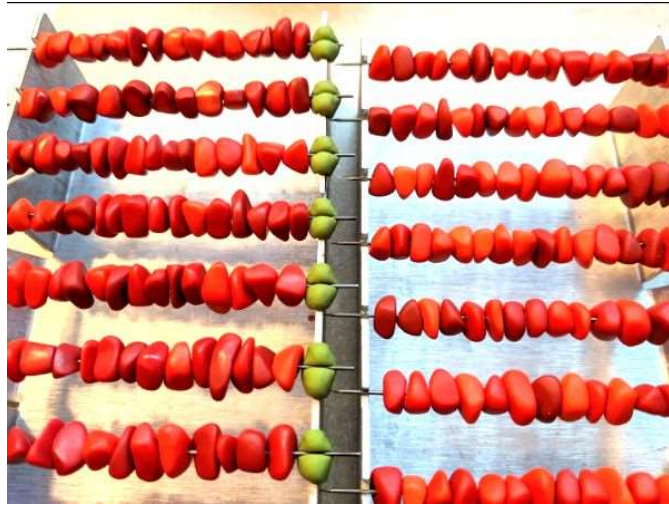
Earrings in progress by Kim Day



Earrings by Kim Day



Crocheted wire cuff by Meredith Arnold



Faux coral buffed and unbuffed comparison by Maria Brown



Time Pool I by Charles Nagel

When the waters on the beach recede to join the ocean, they leave behind tide pools, ecosystems that are exquisite small self-contained communities. When time recedes to rejoin the Universe, what traces might it leave behind?



Time Pool II by Charles Nagel

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Time Pool V by Charles Nagel



Triptych XIV - Oracle with Refuges by Charles Nagel

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## Online Meetings: Zoom with Us!

By Kim Day | [polymerclay@gmail.com](mailto:polymerclay@gmail.com)



We have our monthly meeting over Zoom the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

We also have small informal clay days every Wednesday 6:30-9:00 p.m. and every Saturday 9:00 a.m.-noon. All of these use the same Zoom link.

You are welcome to invite other people you know to these, there is no membership requirement for our informal get togethers. They can also craft with other mediums than clay.

If you'd like to be on an email list for people who want to schedule Zoom things outside these Wednesday and Saturday times, please let me know with very specific words "Add me to the Zoom e-mail list" at [polymerclay@gmail.com](mailto:polymerclay@gmail.com)

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 988 553 9980

Password: clayisfun

Zoom with Us

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## Holiday Party: What You Should Know

By Kim Day | Zoom



Hello everyone! We told people in last month's newsletter what to expect so they could be prepared. Here's a little more info. There are four main activities in our virtual Zoom Seasonal Celebration.

### I. Socialize

Talk! For in person meetings this would usually be accompanied by stuffing our faces with the generous potluck offerings. Feel free to eat in our Zoom meeting, I know I usually do.

### II. Show and Tell Drawing

For each month someone submitted show and tell to the newsletter or brought to a meeting, their name will be entered once into this drawing. Two winners of \$25 Amazon e-gift certificates will be chosen.

### III. Participation Award

Each person that shows up to our December Zoom meeting will be entered in an additional drawing. There will be four winners, and each winner can choose between the following prizes (bonus, since this is all electronic, each winner can choose the same prize option if they'd like), which will be shipped courtesy of Amazon.

Prizes:

- A. [Pinata alcohol inks](#)
- B. [Small almost seamless cutters](#)
- C. [Mica powders](#)
- D. [Round and football graduated cutters](#) plus [Ateco plain football cutter set](#)



E. [Lucy stencils](#) plus [LC stencils \(set 6\)](#)

F. [Fine tip acrylic paint pens](#)

#### IV. Brown Bag Exchange



This was explained last newsletter, so I'll be brief here. If you want to participate, bring something. Usually it goes in a brown bag and is placed on a table. For this, I won't require a bag. Then we'll take turns, picking between two options: opening a new bag (you don't get to pick the person, it will be random), or stealing an already opened bag. Once a bag is stolen, it is no longer available to steal. After the meeting, if you participated in the brown bag exchange, you will have to mail/arrange drop off or pickup for the person that won your item. If postage fees would stop you from participating, the Guild will covers those if asked.

What goes in your brown bag? It is not a white elephant! It must be something others would want. Typically we give clay supplies, chocolate, handmade clay items, or a mixture of those. While there is no minimum or maximum value assigned, somewhere between \$15 and \$25 is a good ballpark estimate. As always, I strongly encourage stealing, because it helps items go to homes that will appreciate them.

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## January Program: **Clay Social**

By Kim Day | [polymerclay@gmail.com](mailto:polymerclay@gmail.com)



As usual, our January program is a Clay Social. Bring a project you'd like to work on (clay or otherwise), or just hang out and talk. This is our chance to show off holiday

gifts, talk about how much crap we ate, talk about the presents you made for people (pictures count for show and tell by the way, and pictures on the phone usually show up very well in Zoom). Bring questions, good jokes, bad jokes.

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## Exhibit: **Viva Members Art Show 2020**

By Charles Nagel



### **VIVA Members Art Show 2020**

The Vashon Island Visual Artists (VIVA) has risen to the occasion and is using some of the larger galleries for socially-distanced group shows. Thought you might enjoy a video tour of the recent VIVA art show. My piece – which was sold – appears at 2:46. The title is "Triptych XIV-Oracle with Refuges."

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## **President's Message: Charmed, I'm Sure**

By Kim Day | [polymerclay@gmail.com](mailto:polymerclay@gmail.com)



Hello my Fellow Clayers!

For once I am slightly ahead on my Christmas present making. I guess it helps when you're really really excited about giving a certain present. I showed some of the charms last month, but here is a completed Christmas cookie charm bracelet (I made eight for my relatives). Of course there's a mountain of other clay projects to tackle—some for birthdays, some just for me.



Having our Zoom clay days twice a week (Wednesdays 6:30, 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00 a.m.-noon) has really been helping me do clay that I otherwise wouldn't be. When your health isn't perfect, or you get busy, or you're tired after a long day, it can be hard to find the energy to feed your creative soul. Since I'm pretty decent at sticking to schedules, even when I whine to my husband that I don't feel like claying, once I'm with my clay buddies I always have a good time. I don't always make something fabulous, but sometimes it's fun to go in with no expectations of success. Thanks those that show up and give me someone to whine to. <3

Usually a festive season, our happiness is tempered by the overhanging gloom of the pandemic. I've seen people reacting in different ways. My sister decided she wanted to decorate for Christmas early, and has had her tree (fake, but beautiful) up for a week already. My husband decided to arrange a weekly Zoom call with his family. I decided to add another depression medication on top of my current one. Whatever you gotta do, do it. There will be no judgement here, we're all rooting for you and your happiness.

Carve yourself out some me time, whether it's doing clay, watching silly reruns, having a bubble bath, or reading a book you've had waiting for you for months. I hope to see many of you at our December Zoom meeting! Also a reminder that our

all day clay day is scheduled for Saturday December 12th, 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Drop in for as little or as long as you'd like.

And for those that were there in the November meeting, Nan says the foils were the "New Deco foil colors. Get them at Urban Papercrafter, on Edmonds way across from the PCC. They are stunning!"

Also, [Blueberry Beads](#), the new craft store mentioned in our last newsletter last month, has made their clay available for online purchase now as well. Check them out!

Much love,

*Kim Day*



## Update your Info

New members need to sign-up to our newsletter, the sign-up form is included in your NWPCG Welcome email from Membership.

Changing your email? You can [update your personal](#) information to ensure that you receive our newsletter. You can also add your website or social media links to your profile. This link is also available in every newsletter at the footer area.

If you haven't yet, please add "newsletter@nwpcg.org" to your address book so our newsletters do not go to spam.

Update

 Forward

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[NWPCG website](#)



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