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# Learn how to make Applique & Beach Pebbles!

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

To: Maria Jam <mariajambrown@yahoo.com>

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Volume 28 | Issue 07 | July 2021

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## June Recap: **Applying Applique**

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



For June's Zoom meeting, I demo'd an easy but not quick technique known as polymer clay embroidery or applique. Search either of those terms on Pinterest for some truly gorgeous examples. It can be used by itself to do things like flowers, in combination with other techniques such that it blurs the line between embroidery and

clay painting (examples shown in the meeting included the wings of a bird (sculpted relief body), or a landscape temple scene with embroidery flowers).

### **Bezel filling technique shown (there are many!)**

Roll a sphere of clay the diameter of your bezel. Cut off the top third or so. Smoosh this into the bezel. It is smaller than the diameter of your bezel, so you can spread it to the outside edges, while maintaining your rounded shape. Either smooth this with your fingers with a petting motion, use a Q-tip with isopropyl alcohol to take off fingerprints, or embrace texture and press down on the clay-- in the meeting I used a piece of linen type fabric. You can bake the clay filled bezel, or leave unbaked for the



embroidery step. Pre-baking makes it easier to not squish your lovely concave shape, but leaving it raw makes it easier to stick your tiny pieces to it without needing to use liquid clay.

Also shown in the meeting, using a veneer (mine was a pixelated retro cane) for bezel background. Proceed as before with the sphere, cut off the top third. Use a round clay cutter slightly smaller than your bezel on your veneer. Place the sphere top on the bezel, top with your veneer circle, then smoosh.

### **The basic embroidery technique**

**Step 1:** Roll your colors out into very very thin strings. Skinner blends are great because you can choose pea sized amounts from different parts and have an entire palette to choose from.

**Step 2:** You can lay down strings of greenery for stems, or skip to the flowers, either way, it depends on which you want to be able to layer on top of the other.

**Step 3:** Cut even width pieces from your strings. Since we started with thin strings, this helps us get even sized amounts for each petal. Roll each into tiny tiny little spheres.

**Step 4:** Lay out your tiny sphere in groups. Flowers can range from 2 (buds) to 6 of these petals. Use a point such as a needle tool and drag from about halfway through the petal sphere towards the middle of the flower to create a vein/ridge. This also helps the petal stick to your background. Repeat for leaves. Optional- you can shape the tip of your petal into a point after you've made the vein, or you can slightly flatten the sphere into an oval or pointed oval shape before you make your vein.



Here are my examples. The girl with the flowering hat was likened to a jelly fish, and I can't unsee that.

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## Show & Tell

Send your Show & Tell items (pieces you finished, work in progress, new books, tools or resources you enjoy) to [Kim](#) or [Ria](#). Please send a caption identifying the piece or technique featured in the photo with your full name. As much as possible, do not crop the image. Each submission earns you a ticket to the year-ender party's raffle non-raffle.



Canes by Cathy Gilbert



Cathy Gilbert's marbled bowl class: student work



Cathy Gilbert's marbled bowl class: student work



Cathy Gilbert's marbled bowl class: student work



Esther Schmidt: fun with cutters



Jewelry set by Esther Schmidt



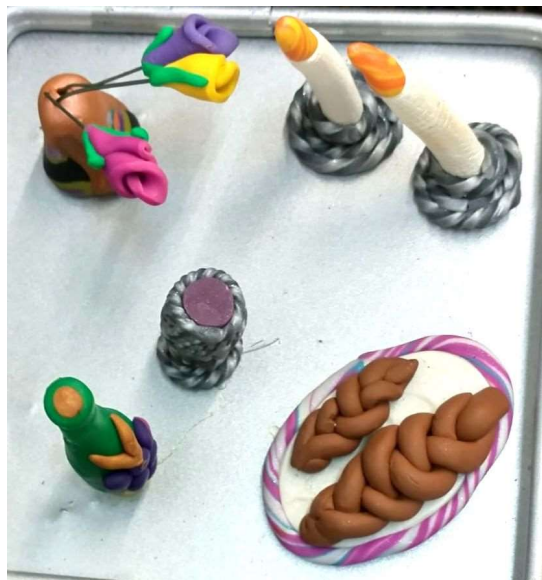
Jewelry set by Esther Schmidt



Jewelry set by Esther Schmidt



Jewelry set by Esther Schmidt



Miniature food by Esther Schmidt



Cat earrings by Katie Weibel



Mini dragon by Kim Day



Mokume hearts by Kim Day



Mokume veneer by Kim Day





Rainbow swirls by Kim Day



Sampaguita (jasmin) Girl art doll by Ria Mendoza Hoyt – 4th place, Intermediate category at the 2021 PDMAG Gold Awards

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## July: **Round Robin**

By Maria Brown | [mariajambrown@yahoo.com](mailto:mariajambrown@yahoo.com) | July 7, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.

**Beach Pebbles PLUS!**



Why would I make these things when I can find them on the beach, you ask? Because by creating pebbles and other found beach objects from polymer clay you can get the exact shapes, sizes and colors you want. I have several interesting project ideas to share with you that don't involve beads, for those of you who don't focus on jewelry.

So join us at the NWPCG July Meeting and clay along with me. We'll make ubercool summer stuff that will impress your friends and coworkers! Maybe you'll even impress your mother-in-law! (It could happen.)

[Download the full July Beach Pebbles Plus program here.](#)

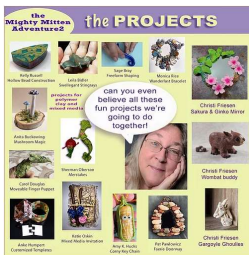
### Back to Face-to-face!

By Kim Day | [polymerclay@gmail.com](mailto:polymerclay@gmail.com) | July 7, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.



This will be our very first in-person meeting at Artworks in Edmonds since the beginning of the pandemic! Please mask up and remember to pack your clay supplies. We will also have this meeting available on Zoom, but there will be a learning curve, so remote learners, please bear with us as we figure it all out.

## Announcements: **Workshops**



### [Christi Friesen: Mighty Mitten Adventure2](#)

The main weekend events take place on July 30-August 1, 2021 but there are events before and after that as well – it's a whole thing! This is an online event with 11 different polymer clay teachers. Cost: \$200 (\$175 if you order before June 30).

### [Polymer Art Summit](#)

An immersive weekend exploring the legacy of Mokume Gane with some amazing teachers and with themed workshops. Takes place from August 7-8, 2021, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Cost: \$150.



### [Olympic Peninsula Polymer Clay Retreat](#)

Teachers include Pam Sanders, Kim Day, Cathy Gilbert, Maria Brown, Cheryl Dixon and more. Takes place from September 27-29th at Holiday Inn Express, Sequim WA. [Email Cheryl Dixon](#) or [click the here for more details](#). Cost: \$149/night.



### [Atlantic City Clay Escape](#)

In person event with world renowned polymer clay teachers. Takes place October 5-9, 2021 in Atlantic City, NJ. Cost: \$575 (\$560 without Paypal)



### [PDMAG Online Convention](#)

PDMAG Online Convention takes place from October 15-24, 2021. Features demos and classes on painting, airbrushing, sculpting and more. Cost: \$10 - VIP ticket includes free demos; Free - sales gallery; Varied Fees - paid classes (depends on artist offering class).

*If you know of any upcoming workshops, send [Kim](#) an email and we'll include it in the announcements.*

## 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 10:00 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 email list" at [polymerclay@gmail.com](mailto:polymerclay@gmail.com)

### [Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 988 553 9980

Password: clayisfun

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## President's Message: Don't wilt away

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



For those that skim the newsletter, our next meeting is both in-person at Artworks, and on Zoom. We will likely not have a dedicated person watching for Zoom questions or chat, but we'll try and make it so you can see what's going on.

We had our full-day Clay Day (happens every other month, next one is in August, see schedule on the website [www.npwcg.org](http://www.npwcg.org)) earlier this month, and had a good time. A few of us experimented

with a hybrid of in-person (yay for vaccinations) and Zoom for the Clay Day. It was a bit distracting, but fun, and it reminded me of how awesome Zoom is. Our in-person Third Place Books Clay Days were always so loud, you could barely hear the person next to you, and on Zoom you can all hear everyone and have group conversations. We will be continuing our Zoom get togethers every Wednesday 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. and Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-noon. We've made some new friends on Zoom, and we've been able to bridge the distance with some of our older friends (Ocean Shores, Portland, Yakima come to mind!).

I have to mention the heat, and how every year for the past 10 years I've tried to talk my husband into buying an AC. He would always say we didn't need it for the two days a year it was actually hot out. Needless to say, that answer won't fly with me for next year. I'm being a heat refugee at my sister's house this weekend. I hope the rest of you are safe and not miserable. For those that love the heat, like my squash plants, huzzah!

Our August program will be making keychains for Fair giveaways using some simple techniques, but I've been unable to get a hold of the person who has scheduled the demos in the past. Worst case we have extra keychains. I'll let people know when/if I manage to establish contact and have the time slots for volunteers to demo at the Evergreen State Fair (the one in Monroe).



I also wanted to mention, for people that like plenty of time to plan ahead, that our next Mini Gingerbread House Decorating Party will be on November 13th at Artworks, from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. This is a good time to start making some miniature candies to share. For those who live too far away to come in person, depending on interest, we might be able to have you mail in some candy a little early and send you back some of our extras from previous years. For sizing: the pictured gingerbread house is about

2 inches by 2.5 inches. The lifesaver candies are around around  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch. So somewhere around 1:4 (if in real life it's 1 inch then the mini would be around  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch), but some things we have a little more creative leeway with (such as lollipops where 1:4 would still be too big). Contact me [polymerclay@gmail.com](mailto:polymerclay@gmail.com) if you'd like to participate remotely.

Remember to always leave yourself some crafting time without expectations. Make something for yourself, or try a technique. I'm one of those people that all too often falls into the trap of only making things for a reason- a niece's birthday, a Christmas present. And while those are fun too, you deserve to keep something around for yourself that makes you smile and be happy. Keep it fun, don't let your creative side become a chore.

Love always,



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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](#)



Newsletter Editor & Designer: Ria Mendoza Hoyt | [orangejar@gmail.com](mailto:orangejar@gmail.com) Photos taken during NWPCG events may be used for promotional materials

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