

Covering pens, clay events and our very own Clay Camp is coming up!

From: Northwest Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter <newsletter@nwpcg.org>
To: Maria Jam <mariajambrown@yahoo.com>

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Recap: Covering Slimline Retractable Pen Kits with Cheryl Dixon

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com



Cheryl did a fabulous job demonstrating her steps and tricks for covering pen blanks with polymer clay and assembling the pen kits. Here is a non-comprehensive list of some of her tips (PS: she said she'd bring her pen putter together thing – technical term obviously – to Clay Camp).

She first covered the clay with a base layer. Since she was using a translucent chrysanthemum cane as the top layer, she showed how it looked after baking depending on the base color used. She also demonstrated what the final pen looks like using thin (4 on her pasta machine, and her preferred setting) or thick base layers. The thin one resulted in a slimline type pen, and the thick one could be good for older people that have a hard time holding on to pens. She did a bevel (slanted) cut, so she could join the ends almost seamlessly.

The blank was rolled, but not hard because you don't want to stretch the clay and make it longer than the blank. For the cane covering, she liked the chrysanthemum cane because it was very

forgiving – you didn't even need to do complete slices. If you put the cane slices on your base layer before covering the blank, you could use cane slices to help cover the seam as well.

Cheryl showed us how far to press the components together, although her machine could take them apart again if it was accidentally too far. She also showed how she sands her blanks before assembly – they are put on a drill mandrel, and she just gently holds the different grits of sandpaper up to the rotating pen blank, so no sore wrists. Love it! All in all, an easy way to make classy gifts (the pen kits definitely look better than covering bics in my opinion).

She gets her kits from [Penn State Industries](#), if you're interested. The jigs are more expensive, and were somewhere around \$75 I believe. Thanks for the excellent program Cheryl.

Show & Tell

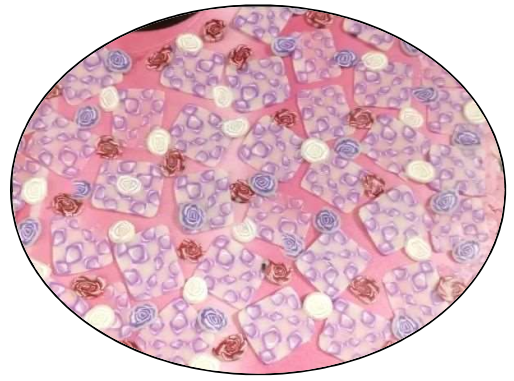
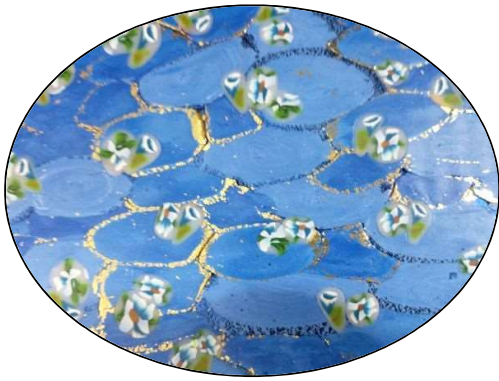
Send your Show & Tell items (pieces you finished, work in progress, new books, tools or resources you enjoy) to [Kim](#) or [Ria](#). Please send a caption identifying the piece or technique featured in the photo with your full name. As much as possible, do not crop the image. Each submission earns you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



Canes by Cathy Gilbert



Ornaments by Cathy Gilbert



Veneer by Esther Schmidt



Rose centerpiece by Heather Adair





By Joy Coleman



Ornaments by Kim Day

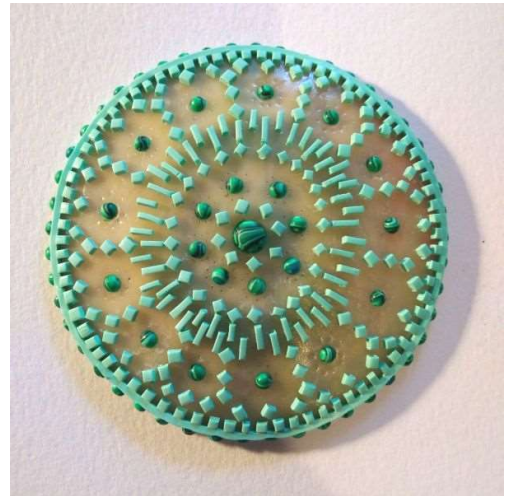


Striped canes by Maria Brown

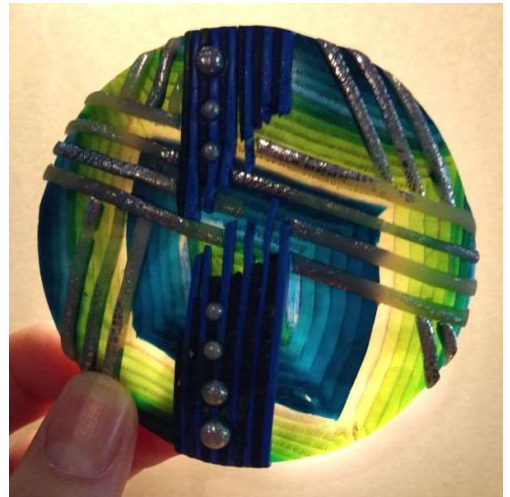
Special: Dawn's Ornaments

By Dawn Gray | programs@nwpcg.org

Ornaments and gingerbread houses made by Dawn Gray for the 2021 Ornament swap.









Feb Program: Clay Social

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com



Our February Zoom Program is a clay social. Bring any project, clay or non clay, to work on, and come hang out. This is a great time to ask questions, get feedback, and show-off what you've been working on.

Announcements: Classes & Discounts

Upcoming Polymer Clay Classes at ArtWorks

By Meredith Arnold | meredith@mereditharnold.com



You're the first to hear this: I just hired a new instructor to teach at ArtWorks and one of the programs he's developing is sculpting using polymer clay! This could morph into an ongoing polymer clay related "creative circle". This means that a different focus would be offered each time so the topic would change. This allows for some wide ranging applications, techniques and skill building. So stay tuned to our [website](#) for new info.

Blueberry Beads discount for NWPCG members!

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com



Thanks to Maria Brown for setting this up, and to Blueberry Beads for wanting to help our clay community (they've also offered to send out Guild business cards to local clayers). Use coupon code: nwpcg121021 for a 15% discount on clay at [Blueberry Beads](#).

They do have a list of members, so I'd ask you not to share this discount code with non-members (remember, it's only \$20 a year to join the NWPCG). They carry Cernit (including all the lovely metallics and translucent), Pardo, Premo and Souffle. They also have an in-person shop in Bothell.

Member discount code: nwpcg121021

Clay Camp 2022: It's Official!

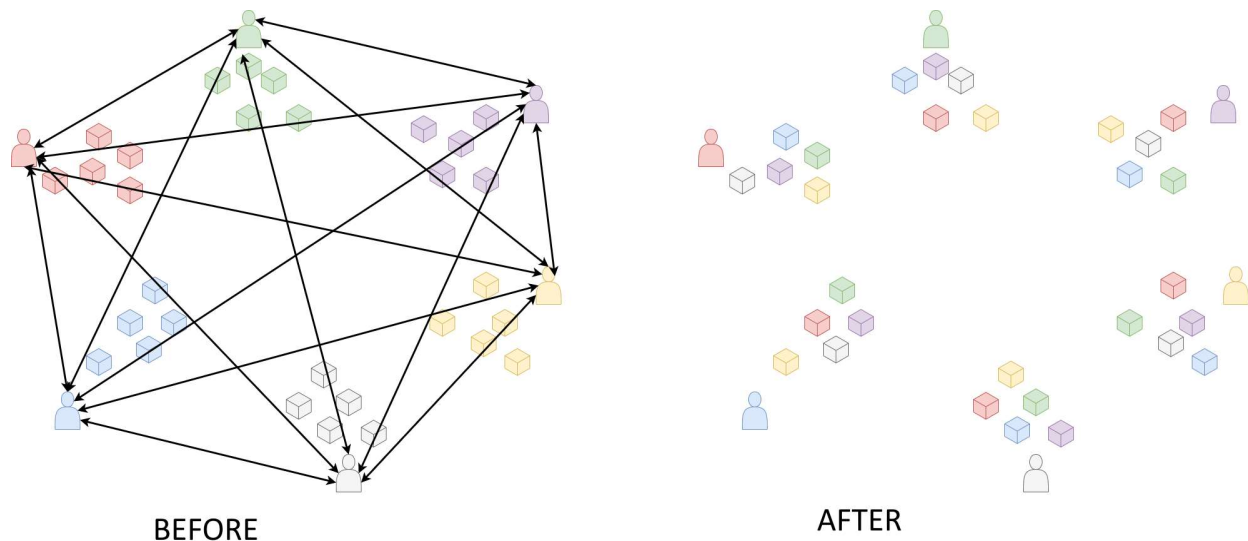
By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com

Save The Date!



Clay Camp 2022 will be held from May 12th to May 16th, 2022, Thursday 4:00 p.m. through Monday 2:00 p.m. We are still seeking teachers, but if we need to, we will just have fewer class offerings this year. I hope to have prices for you in next month's newsletter.

With our change of Guild registration servicer, we will be requiring Guild membership. We will also be requiring covid vaccination, so if you are currently unvaccinated and wish to attend, please remember to give yourself time to receive the first shot, 3-4 week wait depending on which you get, second shot, then an additional 2 weeks before May 12th.



B) 10 all different C) 5 of one type, 5 all different. What is not allowed: A) 10 all of the same type B) more than 5 of the same type. Here is a swap infographic to show how the swapping works. For each swap group of 5 you join, you will receive 5 different ones back. You will not receive one of your own back. The swap happens at clay camp, usually on Saturday. If you cannot make it and want to participate in the swap, communicate with Kim Day (polymerclay@gmail.com) and get them to me before clay camp in May.

Clay Camp T-shirts

By Susan Locsin



We will have Clay Camp t-shirts this year. The way it works – bring a t-shirt of your choice to Clay Camp and get it silk screened with this year's design. If your shirt is 100% cotton, you can also tie or ice dye it. All supplies and instruction will be available outside of class times. I have bought some great Supima cotton shirts from landsend.com.

Meetings: Zoom

By Kim Day | 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

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 988 553 9980

Password: clayisfun

From the President: Fun Stuff!

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com



Hi Clay Peeps,

So I'm pretty late, but I finally finished making all my Christmas ornaments (for 2021) for my family. Now I'm at the state where I'm already late, so what's the rush to get to the post office, right? Plus with them all sitting in a bowl, I feel quite proud, my mini clay hoard.

There are a few things coming up in February that should be on your radar.

- [Polymer Clay Symposium](#)
 - Dates: Fri, 11 Feb - Fri, 18 Feb, 2022
 - Cost: Free or paid. Each day there are 3 videos released that are free to watch. If you wish to purchase them to watch in the future, there is a fee. Check out the schedule and put the ones you're

interested in on your calendar.

- **Clayathon 2022**
 - Dates: Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, February 19th, 20th, and 21st
 - Cost: for \$50 you get a total of 6 hours of Loretta Lam's teachings (not recorded, Zoom only), plus some other fun demonstrations. There are also pre and post retreat Zoom workshops available. There were hundreds of people at this last year, and Carol Blackburn was amazing.

Not looking for classes, but looking for a fun challenge? Here are my two favorites.

The 100 day project

What: For 100 days you do something of your choice. It can be 10 minutes of a project, a finished piece, a cane, an interpretive dance. Artists across many genres do it, and there's a fun Facebook group or instagram hashtags for you to look at all the pictures. It starts on Feb 13, 2022, but it is very forgiving. If you miss a day, just keep going at your own pace, until you've done 100 days of it.

2022 Polymer Clay Challenge

What: Once a week, for the rest of the year, make something, of whatever theme of your choice. Also a fun group to follow, and less time intensive than the 100 day project. It's not too late to join, just start posting once per week.

I'm happy to say our Zoom clay gatherings are still going strong. Every Wednesday 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. PST, every Saturday morning 10:00 a.m.-noon PST. Always nice to see a friendly face, nice to have a scheduled time where I'll be in my clay room, which usually leads to me playing with my clay. If you haven't tried it out, give it a go. Most of us are nice.

And one last reminder. Please send in Show and Tell pictures! They can be things you showed at the Zoom monthly meeting, but sending it for the newsletter means that people who couldn't make it to the meeting still get to see your wonderful clay (or non clay, we're inclusive here) projects. polymerclay@gmail.com



PS- Our kitten Loki keeps us entertained, but I do need new paper towels in my clay room now.

Kim

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

[NWPCG website](#)



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