



Upcoming Programs

March Make-Along Program

By Dawn Gray | programs@nwpcg.org | March 5th | Zoom



Last month, we made layered pendants and this month, we will be making small framed images that would be suitable for pendants, doll house pictures or, if you go tiny, earrings. I will walk everyone through the process and then you can design the finished size to be whatever you are in the mood to make.

Supplies needed:

- Basic clay tools
- Variety of colors of clay – skinner blend bits and pieces would be really good to use as
- Landscapes in the background
- To make the frames: either two graduated cutters of the same shape or paper, pencil and
- Scissors to draw your own template
- Texture sheets with fairly small patterns for the frame
- Optional things to add – small cane slices, rhinestones, pan pastels, mica powders, paints

I've had a lot of fun playing with making examples this week and I hope you do, too. Thank you, Katie, for the idea for this month. Please let me know if there is something you see out on the internet that you would like us to make. Would you like to try sculpture, making veneers for coasters, covering vases or other thrift store objects, more jewelry, Kim's

eggs? Let me know.

Special Feature

Life is About Using the Whole Box of Crayons

By Maria Brown | mariajambrown@yahoo.com

“What color do you think I should use here?” Color choice is the most discussed topic when we show each other our clay creations. We know colors influence our thoughts, impact our reactions, and have strong emotional connotations, but how we use color combinations of colors to get just the right mood or feeling in our work can be intimidating. Color Theory basics to the rescue!



Sir Isaac Newton invented more than Calculus and the Theory of Gravity- he came up with the color wheel that we still use today. When experimenting with light, he concluded that red, yellow, and blue (or as we know from mixing clay- magenta, yellow, and cyan) were the primary colors from which all other colors originated. Did you know that back in the day, blue pigments were crazy expensive because they were created with lapis lazuli that was found only in the mountains of Afghanistan? True story.

We know that secondary colors are derived from mixing two primary colors, but did you know that until the beginning of the 16th century, the word ‘orange’ didn’t exist in the English language? People just said “red yellow”. They started using the word orange when Portugal began to export, you guessed it, oranges to the English-speaking world.

Mixing a primary with a secondary gets us tertiary colors. Once we understand this classification of the colors, we can start to understand the relationships between them depending where they’re at on the color wheel. I have no fun fact about a tertiary color, sorry. But I CAN tell you that the color “Baker Miller” is the color that most reduces violent impulses in humans, says some psychological studies. It’s been used in experiments in some U.S. prisons. So if you hate light pink, don’t go to prison.

So if you want to invoke a certain emotion in your clay pieces and you don’t quite know how, consider ALL the crayons in the box, not just a few tried-and-true favorites. Here’s a few places to explore:

Find an artist's work that moves you, click on that artist's name in [Color Lisa](#), and you get the palette they used.

Think about new color combinations you create with [Color Hunt](#), [Material Palette](#), and [Palleton](#).

You can also use the free tools offered by some best-known design applications. Canva has its [Color Palette Generator](#), while Adobe has [Adobe Color](#) to use.

And look back at my article in the January 2023 newsletter for more websites that generate color combinations. Happy Claying, my Polymer Peeps!

[Download the article](#)

February Review

Feb Make-Along

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com

Dawn Gray led us in a project using multiple layers of cookie cutters, with custom embossing at each step. She showed us how to create stippling effects by cutting into the clay with an Exacto blade in a hash design, then laying that piece over another object to open up the design. She demonstrated using different things to create depth, movement, and texture, including etch-and-perls, Etch 'n Pearl needle tools, ball stylus, and the Exacto blade.

After baking, she showed how to use paints to bring out all the designs. She began with a dark paint (black or brown), and got in every groove with a stiff brush. She wiped off most of the paint. She highlighted some areas with white paint, and then used gold, alizarin and other colors to apply highlights. Check out the show and tell section for some of her student work from the make-along!

Esther's Wire Demo

Esther demonstrated her wire techniques in an extra session, a week after our Guild meeting. She showed using dead-soft wire to make shapes to accent your pieces, to make bezels for the clay, to make clasps, and how to get a firm wire wrap on your pieces by twisting the wire to tighten the wrapping. Thanks for the demo!

Show & Tell

Work by Cathy Gilbert



By Cheryl Dixon



Work by Esther Schmidt





Work by Joy Coleman



Work by Katie Weibel



Work by Kim Day





Work by Linda Hall



Work by Maria Brown



Work by Sharon Myhyre



NWPCG Business

2023 Board Meeting

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com

The NWPCG Board met on Zoom for our annual meeting in January. Here is a summary of the minutes from the meeting, for public record:

NWPCG Board Meeting 2023 1/28/2023

Attendees:

- Kim Day, President
- Cheryl Dixon, Vice President of Membership
- Dawn Gray, Vice President of Programs
- Susan Locsin, Secretary
- Maria Brown, Treasurer

Called to order 12:01 pm 1/28/2023

Officially changing monthly meetings to 1st Sunday 12 – 2:30 p.m. – Passed

Raise dues \$25 individual, \$20 senior & student, family being discontinued

Motion Maria, 2nd Kim, all approved

Financials - created and voted on budget for the year

Motion Kim, 2nd Maria, Passed

Membership

55 members 45 paid

Research how to synchronize membership and Mailchimp for newsletter

Outreach events

How to increase membership?

Update contact info on IPCA

Return to key chains at fairs?

Ask Joy & Blueberry to distribute ¼ sheet flyer

Newsletter

Kim's delivery date for newsletter should be earlier to Ria

Dawn will send out email the day before events

Clay Camp June 2-4 at Artworks

Group rate for hotel – Cheryl to investigate

Cost is just for workspace for now

How to setup tables?

Can we invite food trucks?

\$125 non, \$100 member for costs, nom Susan, 2nd Kim, passed

Waiting for class proposals

Register for classes before camp, could not pay camp costs

Storage

7 ovens in storage

3 other ovens

Zoom meeting etiquette

Establish rules for zoom meetings demos / social and show on a slide

Prefer to go back to one zoom link

Calendar

1st Sunday is clay along demo

3rd Sunday clay day every even numbered month from 10am-5pm

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

[Download the Board Minutes](#)

From the President

Projects Galore

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com

Despite somewhat grandiose plans (or because of that perhaps...), I've been quite delayed in starting my 52 weeks of polymer clay earrings. I did spend quite a few Zoom sessions clearing off my clay table, setting up a recording space, organizing shelves and tools. I finally started my first pair of earrings, and I'm hoping I can catch up to the actual week at some point. Oh my, what a difference a clean work surface



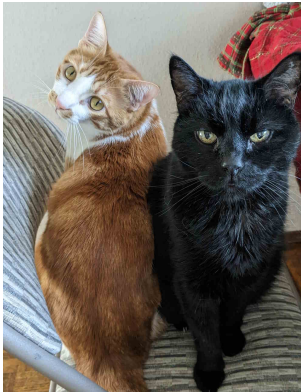
makes! It was worth the delay. Now to just start scheduling clay time, instead of hoping I'm suddenly inspired to go work in my clay room.

Esther is also doing the 52 week project, and is using it to make herself a new set of jewelry each week. Such a great idea, to make something for yourself. I too often am creating only for presents and swaps and giveaways. Let's all copy Esther and make ourselves something!



Dawn Gray and Cathy Gilbert (and maybe Sharon Mhyre?) are starting the 100 Day Project, and doing something in their chosen medium every single day for 100 days. That's quite the marathon you all started, I can't wait to see what you're making.

Clay Camp planning is just starting up. The dates are on the website, the deadline for class proposals is approaching. I'm getting excited for it already, although I'll miss Camp Huston. If you are local (to



Artworks/Edmonds) and have a guest room you might be willing to share with an out-of-town Guildmate, please let me know so I can help match people up. If you have ideas for optional communal meals, I'm happy to listen to them.

Dawn's make-along programs have been awesome, and you can help by contributing ideas you'd like her to do, or volunteering to lead a make-along during the year. We just had our every-other-month all day Zoom clay day. If you haven't tried out a Zoom meeting in a while, I highly recommend it. We're fun to hang out with.

Here are two pictures of my cute kitties, enjoy!

Much love,

Kim

Editor's Notes

Newsletter basics

By Ria M. Hoyt | ria@orangejar.com

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.

Photo submission guidelines:

- When taking photos, make sure the room is well lit. Taking pictures beside a window during the day provides nice lighting
- Keep your background clear. Use a blank sheet of paper, plain bedsheet or parchment paper – these are materials that are usually easy to find at home and make good backgrounds
- Before you click, make sure the subjects are sharp and clear. If using a phone, double clicking on the item usually focuses on it. If this does not work for you, check your phone manual.
- As much as possible, please do not crop your photos before submitting.
- For questions email **Ria**.

Update

 Forward

NWPCG website



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