



SYNERGY

Moving Forward, Looking Back



Synergy: Moving Forward, Looking Back

Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland
Thursday, February 21 – Saturday, February 23th, 2008

The NPCG 2008 conference is a new kind of conference for the polymer clay, metal clay, mixed media, and sculpting communities. Rather than hands-on classes aimed at teaching specific creative techniques, this conference is full of 90-minute seminars, lectures and panel discussions aimed at promoting sharing and communication between presenters and attendees alike.

This is a wonderful opportunity to network with fellow polymer artists, attend seminars, lectures and panels, and participate in round table discussions. You will also be able to see the work of hundreds of craft artists from around the country at the American Craft Council show which is occurring at the same time and in the same building as the Synergy Conference.

Registration Information

Your registration fee includes six 90-minute seminars, all presentations and panel discussions, admittance to the Synergy Gallery, Teacher Fair, and Vendor Fair. Additional seminars can be purchased for \$30 each.

NPCG member cost	\$245
Nonmember cost	\$285
Tickets for the Closing Banquet and Auction	\$35 each

Registration opens online on October 1st, 2007 at: www.npcg.org

Hotel information

The Tremont Plaza is the Conference Hotel. Located six blocks away from the convention center, it has free on-call shuttles to and from the convention center. Rooms at the Tremont have kitchenettes in all the rooms—good for making simple breakfasts and packing a brown bag lunch. It also has a prize-winning deli and a restaurant, plus lots of dining options in the vicinity.

Room Rates:

one room suite with two queen beds	\$109+ tax/night
two room suite with one queen and sofa bed	\$109+tax/night

Parking:

\$25 Valet Parking at hotel with unlimited in and out privileges
\$15 Overnight Parking at the city lot across from the hotel

Craftsmanship

Thursday, February 21

8:30–10:00 am Morning Sessions

T100

Natural Wonders

Dever

Join Jeffrey Lloyd Dever as he takes you on a journey into his studio and the world of polymer clay pods, hollow forms and vessels. Learn how he arrived at the techniques peculiar to his spectacular work. See a retrospective of Jeffrey's work and come to understand his creative process and where his inspiration comes from. You will learn Jeff's top techniques including some he has never revealed until now. A question and answer period will allow you to get a better understanding of how to apply Jeff's techniques to your own work.

T110

Beyond the Blend: Thinking Outside the Skinner Box

Cormier

The Skinner Blend is without a doubt one of polymer clay's most celebrated innovations, forever evolving how we merge colour in our medium. But while this technique has profoundly changed the way we work, in the decade since it was introduced, the Skinner Blend itself has changed very little.

Always curious and compelled to find a new angle for his work, Canadian artist Dan Cormier has spent the past couple of years as a "blender," using Judith Skinner's elegant discovery as a springboard for new exploration and experimentation. What's he discovered? For all it's given us already, this technique still has some secrets to reveal...

Join Dan and collaborator Tracy Holmes for a retrospective tribute to one of the most important techniques we know. Then, take a trip "Beyond the Blend" and learn how this creative partnership is turning a single idea into a whole new realm of possibilities.

T120

Expanding Polymer Clay Techniques for Large Scale Use in Furniture

Bischoff

For the past 16 years, Bonnie Bischoff and her partner J.M. Syron have been exploring and developing techniques for using polymer clays in their one-of-a-kind studio furniture and lighting. Lately they have been creating veneers combining expanded millefiori techniques with multilayer marquetry. The effect is a highly detailed surface design with extraordinary depth and color possibilities. Bonnie will be giving a slide presentation, showing the progression of their work and techniques; discussing the challenges and considerations when combining wood and polymer clay on large scale.

T130

The Polymer Pro Jewelry Studio: Tips, Tools and Techniques for Creating Gallery Quality Work

Savarick

In this fast-paced non-stop session, learn the top design, construction and finishing techniques that will elevate your work to new artistic levels. Learn to develop THE designs that gallery owners are looking for. Deconstruct construction and raise the level of your works craftsmanship sky-high. Learn the secrets of creating structural strength and durability with any polymer clay brand. Discover the top construction techniques to create intriguing forms with perfect seams, pristine edges, flawless surfaces, exquisite backs and integrated findings. You CAN create the work of your dreams and it starts with this ninety minute session.

T140

Amazing Textures!

Bernecker

Get excited about Photopolymer plates! Learn to use your own artwork—including hand-drawn and computer-generated—to create unique reusable texture plates. Originally developed for the printing industry, these plates are metal or plastic coated with a UV sensitive emulsion. High contrast artwork is placed onto the plates and exposed under UV light, then rinsed with water to create a permanent impression. Masks can be used to vary the thickness of designs. This presentation will include a demonstration using video projection equipment and examples of finished jewelry and slides from various artisans.

T150

Eccentric Bead Shapes

Haunani

"Wait there is MORE!!!" Besides being the mantra of late night TV infomercials...this can become your magical incantation as you embrace the possibilities of creating interlocking, eccentric bead shapes using polymer clay. There is no need to eschew a perfectly symmetrical 10 mm round bead...It is just that one of the most exciting possibilities inherent in polymer clay bead making is the ability to design your own shapes and select exactly where you want the hole(s). Your magical hands, bead rollers, kitchen tool and extruders designed for use with polymer clay are a few of the options available to you. Join me, Lindly, for this fun fast paced demonstration of eight shapes, not exactly a bead a minute in ninety minutes, but impressive in offering you the keys to designing your own eccentric bead shapes. These bead shapes will all be made from one simple Skinner Blend dot cane, which will be stretched, morphed, onlaid and re-invented. Twists, tubes, bongos, pinched petals, leaves and ice cream cones can provide inspiration for the shaping process you use while designing your beads. Strategies for making them all the more exciting by creating a stringing rhythm that echoes their shapes will be part of a lively interactive discussion. Feel free to ask questions, be inspired and leave with an enhanced understanding of the playful side of your artistic self.

10:30–11:30 am Guest Speaker

SI

The History of Polymer Clay

Dustin

Join us in the Main Ballroom for a presentation by renowned polymer clay artist and historian Kathleen Dustin.

This session is included with your paid Synergy registration.

The Earliest Development of Polymer Clay Art in the USA

Unlike ceramics, glass, or basket weaving, polymer clay hasn't been around for thousands of years. Have you ever wondered when people started using polymer clay as a fine craft medium? Who were they and where did they come from? Who first began doing millefiore? Who discovered using a pasta machine? This presentation covers the development of using polymer clay as a fine craft medium in the mid 1980s by a handful of American artists working independently, yet simultaneously.

11:30–1:30 pm Lunch and Optional Lunchtime Events

12:00–1:00 pm Teacher Fair

If your guild or organization is looking to host classes and workshops from some of the best teachers in the business, then Thursday's Teacher Fair is where you want to be. During the Thursday lunch break you will have the opportunity to meet teachers from all over the United States, get copies of their class proposals and talk to them about coming to your local Guild or arts event.

If you are interested in joining the Teacher Fair, you can sign up as part of your Synergy Conference Registration. The table fee is \$50 and tables may be shared.

12:00–1:30 pm Synergy Gallery open for drop-off

1:30–2:30 pm Panel Discussion

P1

Hallmarks of Craftsmanship

Dever

What are the standards of craftsmanship and who decides? How do we set benchmarks without a historic past? Are standards different for production products versus one-of-a-kind? How does craftsmanship affect acceptance of the medium? Are there different standards for professionals?

This session is included with your paid Synergy registration.

3:00–4:30 pm Afternoon Sessions

T300

Cold Connections for Polymer Clay

Dancik

How can you attach virtually any material or found object to your polymer clay work in a way that forwards the idea of the piece, and is permanent and archival? We will answer this question in a lecture/demonstration covering simple methods of riveting, tabbing, prongs, folds, micro fasteners, various chemical bonds, alternate stone setting ideas and more. Very few tools are required for most operations and some homemade shop aids will be presented. An accompanying 12-page handout on cold connections will be available online before the conference.

T310

Beyond the Blend: Thinking Outside the Skinner Box

Cormier

The Skinner Blend is without a doubt one of polymer clay's most celebrated innovations, forever evolving how we merge colour in our medium. But while this technique has profoundly changed the way we work, in the decade since it was introduced, the Skinner Blend itself has changed very little.

Always curious and compelled to find a new angle for his work, Canadian artist Dan Cormier has spent the past couple of years as a "blender," using Judith Skinner's elegant discovery as a springboard for new exploration and experimentation. What's he discovered? For all it's given us already, this technique still has some secrets to reveal...

Join Dan and collaborator Tracy Holmes for a retrospective tribute to one of the most important techniques we know. Then, take a trip "Beyond the Blend" and learn how this creative partnership is turning a single idea into a whole new realm of possibilities.

T320

Molded Armature for the Polymer Clay Sculptor

Dewey

Do you want your work to last? Do you want it to fool gravity? Do you want it to survive shipping hell? Whether you're a sculptor or a jewelry designer, I've got the answers to your armature problems. From easy to reproduce, posable prefabs to complicated one-of-a-kind structures, learn how to work with a variety of modeling media to create the armature or inner core that suits your needs.

T330

Fine Finishing: Gluing, Drilling, Sanding, Findings and Construction

Roche

Fine finishing converts a mediocre creation into something special. Polymer clay has many unique properties that need to be understood for successful finishing. An in-depth discussion of polymer clay as a plastic and how it responds to gluing, sanding, baking and drilling will be presented with demonstrations and examples. The use of rubber cord as a finishing and construction material will be demonstrated with many examples presented for inspiration including creative findings, pendant design, unitized construction, riveting, hinging and closures.

T340

Silver Bezels for Polymer

Kuskin

Add a professional finish to your polymer jewelry by incorporating traditional metalsmithing. I will demonstrate how I create silver bezels with some very basic metalsmithing techniques and tools. A little metal goes a long way toward increasing the “perceived value” of your work. It’s not as difficult as you think!

T350

Web Site Craftsmanship

Forbes-Lyons

In this session, you will learn how to navigate the NPCG web site as well as how to submit articles and calendar items for self-promotion. With the NPCG website as an example, learn how to utilize open source web site applications to craft a quality web site for yourself. The session will cover three types of online applications that can be used to create artist web sites and how they can be enhanced to showcase your work and business.

- Content Management Systems (CMS)
- Blog
- Image Gallery

5:00–6:00 pm

**ACC Reception/Opening
of Gallery and Exhibit**

Join us for an exhibit highlighting one of the most extensive collections of polymer clay work and indulge yourself by shopping for new work from a variety of artists working in polymer clay, metals, and mixed media.

This session is included with your paid Synergy registration.

5:00–7:30 pm

Synergy Gallery Open

7:30–9:00 pm

Evening Sessions

T400

Hardware/Techware

Sober

Hardware and electronic components taken out of context make modern and funky findings, accents, and connectors for polymer clay jewelry. This seminar examines using combinations of technological, mechanical, and polymer elements to create jewelry with an industrial edge. Explore mechanical connections between polymer clay and other media and techniques for balancing contrasting elements in a unified work.

T410

Creating Custom Colors and Stencils

Greynolds

Expand your polymer horizons with new custom color palettes and stencils. Are you frustrated with using the colors of clay straight out of the package? Learn how to combine them using modified Skinner blends to create custom

color palettes. Don’t let your surface decorating be limited to your inventory of texture sheets and rubber stamps! Learn the process of cutting your own unique stencils with a variety of materials and tools. These stencils can be combined over and over to create an endless array of images.

T420

Molded Armature for the Polymer Clay Sculptor

Dewey

Do you want your work to last? Do you want it to fool gravity? Do you want it to survive shipping hell? Whether you’re a sculptor or a jewelry designer, I’ve got the answers to your armature problems. From easy to reproduce, posable prefabs to complicated one-of-a-kind structures, learn how to work with a variety of modeling media to create the armature or inner core that suits your needs.

T430

**Fine Finishing: Gluing, Drilling, Sanding, Findings
and Construction**

Roche

Fine finishing converts a mediocre creation into something special. Polymer clay has many unique properties that need to be understood for successful finishing. An in-depth discussion of polymer clay as a plastic and how it responds to gluing, sanding, baking and drilling will be presented with demonstrations and examples. The use of rubber cording as a finishing and construction material will be demonstrated with many examples presented for inspiration including creative findings, pendant design, unitized construction, riveting, hinging and closures.

T440

The Joy of Confident Color

Haunani / Maggio

Learn how to use polymer clay to make simple tools that will help you make color decisions.

T450

Earring Design

Dustin

Too many earrings are a polymer bead hung on a boring pre-purchased French ear wire that has no relationship to the bead. Good art in craft includes every aspect of a piece of jewelry and is based on the idea that a finding should either be part of the design or else be completely hidden. So, by designing and making your own ear wires, not only will your work be more unique and interesting, but you will, in fact, be able to increase the price and they will sell better! This demonstration includes some basic wire-working techniques and problem solving ideas on developing your own earring designs.

9:00–10:00 pm

**Synergy Gallery
open for drop-off**

Business

Friday, February 22

8:30–10:00 am Morning Sessions

B100

I Can See It Now: Visual Aids: For Everyone!

Frankenberg

Are you a hands-on learner? Do your eyes light up when a teacher brings out the visual aids? Or do you love to listen to lectures? Knowing your personal learning style is the key to getting the most out of any class or workshop. Once you know your learning style, you will be able to use some basic strategies to make it easier to process and remember new information. Whatever style your teacher has, adapt it to fit YOU!

B110

On Stage with Polymer Clay

Carlson

Storytelling with clay can become a bonding event for people of all ages—and a moneymaker for you! Learn from Maureen how she puts her clay characters and millefiori designs to work for her as props in an interactive storytelling event. Her approach to listening, asking questions and respecting the audience has resulted in her being asked back to classrooms year after year—and not as a volunteer, but as a paid entertainer. If you're ready for a new "hat", and if you like to be "on stage", come explore the possibilities and have fun at the same time.

B120

The Mystery of Pricing

Summer

I will go beyond the standard pricing formula to creating a personal formula which will consider ways to include the varied sales venues, artistic intention, presentation, business growth and more. A question and discussion will follow.

B130

Should I or Shouldn't I?

Dunn

Have you been told that you should sell your work? Have you thought about it, but been told it is too difficult to succeed? How do you decide whether or not you should start selling your work? And if you do, what is the best way to go about it? What other options exist? We will look at the pros and cons of being a working artist, and what you should consider in making a decision about what is right for you. We will also look at what other options exist to make money from your passion for polymer.

B140

How to Get Published

Honaman

Being published is a wonderful item to add to your resume. It can also be a rewarding experience. During the lecture, we will review the media outlets available to our field, how to approach each one and how to put your materials together into a professional presentation. Copyrights, negotiations and other details you need to be aware of will also be included.

B150

A Teachers Quandary: Process versus Project

Shriver

"Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day, but teach a man to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime" This old adage sets the tone for my attitudes toward teaching. I will share my thoughts and strategies for designing successful workshops including:

- Joy and generosity in the classroom.
- Discovering ways to impart curiosity in students.
- Struggling against the "kit" approach.
- When a project is appropriate and helpful.
- Encouraging students to trust their own instincts.
- The importance of intention within creativity.

10:00 am–6:00 PM Vendor Fair

Purchase supplies and see demonstrations from your favorite vendors and manufacturers. An updated vendor list will be published soon.

10:30 am–11:30 am Guest Speaker

S2

Television, Polymer Clay and Me

Duvall

The title tells it all....with a few words in between. How I got started in television, found Polymer Clay (even before I met Donna Kato) and dared to demonstrate how to use it on network television. I still have the embarrassing results to prove it. The story continues. Questions will be gratefully accepted and possibly answered.

Join us in the Main Ballroom for a presentation by popular crafter and TV personality Carol Duvall.

This session is included with your paid Synergy registration.

10:30 am–1:30 pm Gallery Open

**12:00–1:00 pm Brown Bag Lunch
NPCG Update (J. Belcher)**

Grab a brown-bag lunch and join the NPCG Board for the latest State of the Guild and your opportunity to share ideas, suggest improvements, and ask questions of the Board members.

This session is included with your Synergy registration.

1:30–2:30 pm Panel Discussion

**P2
Inspiration, Originality, Infringement**

Dever

An exploration of how artists are inspired. Where do their ideas come from, how do they develop new directions or techniques, or original work unique to themselves? How do they share their work...through exhibition, sales, teaching, publishing, the web, etc.? How do they protect their ideas? Where is the line between acceptable influence and piracy or infringement? Join us for a lively, informative, timely discussion.

This session is included with your paid Synergy registration.

3:00–4:30 pm Afternoon Sessions

**B300
Breaking into the Juried Craft Show Circuit**
Cozzi

Don't think high-end juried craft shows are beyond you. Get practical advice about breaking into the Fine Craft or Art Show circuit. Learn how to get accepted and how to deal once you've been accepted. We'll discuss which shows to apply to and when, what comprises good photography, good booth design, lighting & display, transporting your work, selling and follow-up. If you're considering this route, here's an opportunity to learn more and make an informed decision as you consider your course of action.

**B310
Finding your Niche in Beads**
KLEW

Creativity is a very personal journey, finding your voice can be daunting and at the same time very rewarding. Turning that into a thriving business is certainly a dream many of us share for sure. I would like to share with you my personal journey, the whole enchilada! Although my path has not been shall we say "normal"; but it has been very educating and entertaining!

**B320
The Mystery of Pricing**
Summer

I will go beyond the standard pricing formula to creating a personal formula which will consider ways to include the varied sales venues, artistic intention, presentation, business growth and more. A question and discussion will follow.

**B330
Should I or Shouldn't I?**
Dunn

Have you been told that you should sell your work? Have you thought about it, but been told it is too difficult to succeed? How do you decide whether or not you should start selling your work? And if you do, what is the best way to go about it? What other options exist? We will look at the pros and cons of being a working artist, and what you should consider in making a decision about what is right for you. We will also look at what other options exist to make money from your passion for polymer.

**B340
How to Get Published**
Honaman

Being published is a wonderful item to add to your resume. It can also be a rewarding experience. During the lecture, we will review the media outlets available to our field, how to approach each one and how to put your materials together into a professional presentation. Copyrights, negotiations and other details you need to be aware of will also be included.

**B350
Designed to Sell**
Hoffman

Projecting a high-class image doesn't have to have a swanky price tag to match. Find out how to present yourself and your craft effectively by applying and customizing solid design principles to fit your needs. Learn the basics of successful graphic design and how to create and print eye-catching cards, tags, brochures and more—on a budget. Topics covered include elements of good design, creating a logo that reflects your style, choosing papers and printers, and ideas for presenting your craft. I will be using visuals to show examples of type treatments, logos, and printing samples.

5:00–6:00 pm Vendor Fair Demos

5:00–7:30 pm Gallery Open

B400**Polymer Clay Blogging—Ten Ways to Make Yours Effective***Tinapple*

Ten tips for a dynamite polymer clay blog. With patience, persistence, and very little money, you can build a web site to express yourself, attract viewers and sell your works.

B410**Finding your Niche in Beads***KLEW*

Creativity is a very personal journey, finding your voice can be daunting and at the same time very rewarding. Turning that into a thriving business is certainly a dream many of us share for sure. I would like to share with you my personal journey, the whole enchilada! Although my path has not been shall we say “normal”; but it has been very educating and entertaining!

B420**Teaching 101***Haunani*

Would you like to share your polymer clay expertise by beginning to teach others? Or, perhaps you are a seasoned workshop presenter. What interests you most intensely; teaching others to fish or providing the skills and techniques to make the fish? How does that impact the design of your classes and how you choose appropriate venues? There is always more to learn about maximizing the teaching experience for everyone involved: the sponsoring organization or business, you the teacher and most importantly the students. I have been teaching polymer clay classes and workshops for the past seventeen years. The formats have ranged from one-hour demos, three-hour classes, two-day workshops to one-week residential intensives. My students have ranged from five to ninety-three years old and I continue to learn from each and every one of them. Strategies for identifying your market, formulating a contract, designing your workshop(s). Classroom set-up, dealing with gifted and/or challenging students, demonstration considerations, creating a sense of closure are some of the issues to be addressed during an interactive discussion. Included in my presentation, gleaned from over one thousand teaching events; will be my most spectacular mistakes, missteps and triumphs. These have been enfolded into my take on the top ten tips for being a successful workshop leader.

B430**Creative Accounting***Belcher*

Why would you want to spend 90 minutes talking about record keeping and taxes? Because to be a working artist it is essential. “Creative Accounting” is not about how to cook the books, but how to use that creativity in a different way. Most artists consider themselves right-brained dominant. But, there are simple ways to get that left-side of your brain to focus on the mundane side of being a artist: paperwork. This seminar will give you the skills to accomplish the critical tasks of organizing your records, determining your business status and filling out tax forms quickly and efficiently so you can get back to the studio and create!

B440**Establishing Your Own Polymer Clay Business***A. Mitchell*

So you are thinking about selling some of your polymer clay creations? This seminar will cover the basics of how to put together your own company and some of the aspects you need to consider. Topics will include: space, supplies, work time, volume, pricing, branding, marketing, selling, and bookkeeping. We will discuss different venues for sales including arts and craft shows, galleries, wholesale and the Internet. We will cover some of the challenges that can arise and solutions for some of those issues. Ann and Karen Mitchell have owned their mixed media jewelry business, AnKara Designs, for 16 years.

B450**Designed to Sell***Hoffman*

Projecting a high-class image doesn't have to have a swanky price tag to match. Find out how to present yourself and your craft effectively by applying and customizing solid design principles to fit your needs. Learn the basics of successful graphic design and how to create and print eye-catching cards, tags, brochures and more—on a budget. Topics covered include elements of good design, creating a logo that reflects your style, choosing papers and printers, and ideas for presenting your craft. I will be using visuals to show examples of type treatments, logos, and printing samples.

Design

Saturday, February 23

8:30–10:00 am Morning Sessions

D100

Exploring Your Personal Style

K. Mitchell

From concept to completion, explore the entire process of understanding your own unique design style and how it can be transformed into jewelry that reflects your personality. The seminar will include a personal style analysis sheet. The discussion will delve into all aspects of jewelry making, starting with an idea, moving into analysis of balance, color, proportion and detail, followed by an explanation of the vast array of supplies and options available for creating beautiful pieces of jewelry. We will also cover jewelry wear ability of finished design and discuss fabrication, weight, comfort, and harmony.

D110

Personal Icons

Preston

A discussion of the journey that I've been on for the past thirty years to discover my own personal visual vocabulary through the exploration of materials and ideas that surround me.

D120

Sculpture on the Wall, Painting on the Sculpture

Gozonar

I present my recent work "Sculpture on the Wall, Painting on the Sculpture" to all art lovers. This collection takes polymer clay, which is usually used in jewelry design, to a different level by mixing it with other materials such as wood, metal and Plexiglas. Self-Rotating Cubes: Inside a frame made out of Plexiglas are free floating and rotating cubes on steel wire. Cubes, turning on their own axis, get the viewer involved so that they find themselves in an interactive relationship with the work. They become an active participant in the creative process. Free Wires: The basic material in this work is cane. Cane slices, glued to thin and flexible wires, are mounted on a Plexiglas base in different lengths and directions. These designs on wires, placed in a boxed space with all sides enclosed and restricted in this space, give the feeling that they are free floating. These two projects are inspired by the many cultures and civilizations that have resided on these lands, in Turkey, throughout history for many centuries.

D130

Dancing to Your Own MUSEic

Dancik

You finally have some time to work, but you sit and stare at your clay and think, "Why can't I just get myself started?" Call it what you like, but you have the "blank canvas syndrome". Everyone faces it but there are ways to counteract this syndrome and to jump-start anyone on the way to making highly creative, personally relevant, expressive artwork. Techniques and ideas we will explore include: developing an emotional alphabet, artistic decision-making, finding what you really want to say in your artwork, working within the "material/process/procedure" matrix, working with intent, and marrying making with expression.

D140

From Imitation to Inspiration: Finding Your Own Work in That Which Has Come Before

Savarick

Are you tired of making everyone else's work? You CAN create work with your own vision and voice that will give you far more satisfaction than anything possible as long as you are co-opting the work of others. But how? Learn to bust through creative blocks that hold you back from doing your own work. Discover the four levels of artistic inspiration and how to use each in developing your work. Learn to move beyond the images of others work to find true inspiration. Discover techniques that will help you develop your own personal experiences into an artistic vision that will define and distinguish your work. Come to understand how to refine your vision and keep your work moving and growing.

D150

It's All About You

Carlson

Does your polymer clay work reflect who you are, or does it tell the world FROM WHOM you've LEARNED? Is there anything about it that sets it apart from everything else out there? Art is art if it reflects your vision of the world. But what if you are having trouble finding—or trusting your own voice? Hear about her struggle to be authentic, and how she has used specific tips and techniques to keep her work alive and true—and how she can tell when it isn't. Come explore with Maureen ways for discovering your own creative muse.

10:30–11:30 am Guest Speaker

S3

Craft in America

Lauria

Join us in the Main Ballroom for a presentation by Jo Lauria, co-author of *Craft in America*.

This session is included with your Synergy registration.

11:30–1:30 am Gallery open for pickup only

11:45–1:15 pm Lunchtime Sessions

D200

Personal Icons

Preston

A discussion of the journey that I've been on for the past thirty years to discover my own personal visual vocabulary through the exploration of materials and ideas that surround me.

D210

Sculpture on the Wall, Painting on the Sculpture

Gozonar

I present my recent work "Sculpture on the Wall, Painting on the Sculpture" to all art lovers. This collection takes polymer clay, which is usually used in jewelry design, to a different level by mixing it with other materials such as wood, metal and Plexiglas. Self-Rotating Cubes: Inside a frame made out of Plexiglas are free floating and rotating cubes on steel wire. Cubes, turning on their own axis, get the viewer involved so that they find themselves in an interactive relationship with the work. They become an active participant in the creative process. Free Wires: The basic material in this work is cane. Cane slices, glued to thin and flexible wires, are mounted on a Plexiglas base in different lengths and directions. These designs on wires, placed in a boxed space with all sides enclosed and restricted in this space, give the feeling that they are free floating. These two projects are inspired by the many cultures and civilizations that have resided on these lands, in Turkey, throughout history for many centuries.

D220

Art Jewelry Designing

Friesen

Designing art jewelry pieces is a challenging and rewarding aspect of working with polymer clay, since its unique qualities make it a perfect medium for this form of artistic expression. This slide show lecture will explore the special roles of color, composition and embellishments in the creation of dramatic necklaces and brooches. From inspiration to finished piece, this will be a visually rich presentation, sure to get your own creative gears turning.

D230

Creative Sparks

Doroshow

An energizing presentation designed to jumpstart your creative juices and explore the processes involved in brainstorming, problem-solving, developing ideas and thinking in new and exciting ways. Through a series of inspirational, fun, non-threatening exercises and ideas, we'll explore how to come up with a kernel of an idea, support its early stages and bring these ideas to full fruition. We will also talk about how to address when "mistakes happen" and embrace the idea of "If I can't fix it, feature it!" Leave the seminar with fresh ideas and ways to get the creative spark ignited.

D240

Unconventional Polymer

Woods

We have yet to capture a fraction of the possibilities of polymer clay. The crossover into unconventional techniques in combination with other established mediums is still anyone's game. As a weaver I have successfully experimented with polymer clay as a flexible weaving material. We will also explore polymer clay crossing over into 3-D constructions, origami, sliceforms, quilting techniques, garment construction, and much more, including input from the class. We want to jump start you into thinking outside the jewelry box and looking at polymer's other possibilities!

D250

A Whole New Dimension

Benzon

Often, when creating polymer clay jewelry pieces, we tend to give them a flat face or surface because it's safe and easy, and also a nice way to showcase a specific technique or design. Through demonstration, Jana will show several ways to add depth and dimension, and thus visual interest, to your creations. Many times, a few minor adjustments are all that is needed to add appeal to your pieces through dimension, while still maintaining a palette with which to show off your beautiful techniques and designs. Come and learn how, in a fun and information packed demonstration!

1:45–2:45 pm

Panel Discussion

P3

Design Strategies

McCreight

Design isn't that hard — just eliminate a thousand bad ideas and go with what's left. Making the decisions about what to keep and what to discard is a process that requires a blend of reason, intellect, and intuition. Weaving those strands into a coherent and personal style is the challenge that keeps us coming back to our workbenches. This engaging and spontaneous presentation will lead participants to practical insights while steering clear of rigid answers.

This session is included with your paid Synergy registration.

D300**Design in Ninety***Sober*

Feast your eyes and feed your brain in this visual tour of the elements, principles, and vocabulary of effective design. A discussion of current works in polymer reveals the effectiveness of different designs through an examination of their characteristic qualities.

D310**Design 101: The Principles of Design***Bernecker*

Have you ever wanted to learn the basics of good design? Whether in architecture or art, the principles of good design are generally the same. Learn about design principles including scale, proportion, balance, pattern, movement, focal point, variety, contrast and unity. What kinds of designs appeal to you? Why? Think about using the world around you to form your own unique style. This presentation includes many thought-provoking images of various designs from around the world.

D320**The Joy of Asymmetrical Design***Kuskin*

Understanding the principles of visual perception will put you in control of the design process. We will discuss how the eye sees, how the brain interprets and how you can use this information to create dynamic designs that achieve balance without symmetry. You will come away with many new tools which will embolden you to step confidently into the world of asymmetry, bringing a new sense of motion and excitement to your work. In the second half of the seminar we will view successful asymmetrical designs and apply our newly gained knowledge in an interactive discussion of why the designs work.

D330**Art Jewelry Designing***Friesen*

Designing art jewelry pieces is a challenging and rewarding aspect of working with polymer clay, since its unique qualities make it a perfect medium for this form of artistic expression. This slide show lecture will explore the special roles of color, composition and embellishments in the creation of dramatic necklaces and brooches. From inspiration to finished piece, this will be a visually rich presentation, sure to get your own creative gears turning.

D340**Creative Sparks***Doroshov*

An energizing presentation designed to jumpstart your creative juices and explore the processes involved in brainstorming, problem-solving, developing ideas and thinking in new and exciting ways. Through a series of inspirational, fun, non-threatening exercises and ideas, we'll explore how to come up with a kernel of an idea, support its early stages and bring these ideas to full fruition. We will also talk about how to address when "mistakes happen" and embrace the idea of "If I can't fix it, feature it!" Leave the seminar with fresh ideas and ways to get the creative spark ignited.

D350**Unconventional Polymer***Woods*

We have yet to capture a fraction of the possibilities of polymer clay. The crossover into unconventional techniques in combination with other established mediums is still anyone's game. As a weaver I have successfully experimented with polymer clay as a flexible weaving material. We will also explore polymer clay crossing over into 3-D constructions, origami, sliceforms, quilting techniques, garment construction, and much more, including input from the class. We want to jump start you into thinking outside the jewelry box and looking at polymer's other possibilities!

6:30 pm**Gala Banquet****Banquet Keynote***Cynthia Tinapple***Honoring NPCG Founders****Live Auction****Closing Ceremony**