



THE LADYSLIPPER NEWSLETTER

Minnesota Porcelain Art Guild

December 2011

President's Plate - "It's not on the back shelf"

As we prepare to hibernate, do not put your paints on the back shelf until next spring as that may be too late for you to be creative! Start painting now for the wonderful and great Spring Luncheon, display, People's Choice, mug or box exchange and competition. Whichever way you choose to hibernate, be it in the snow or the warm sunny south, start drawing and planning a fantastic design, think about the different techniques you will use on your piece of porcelain, and practice, practice, practice!!!

Take classes...seek out other forms of art. It's a great way to get inspiration by scrap booking, watercolors, beading! Now apply what you learned to painting your porcelain. You may find a new texture that would look lovely next to the poppy that you just painted...take a chance!

The Guild has taken a new turn in our path for competition and sharing our artwork by combining the Spring Luncheon with display, People's Choice, mug or box exchange and competition. Hopefully, you will choose to participate in one or all of the events listed. Let's make it a fabulous day in May and have fun!

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Happy, Happy 85th Birthday to Thelma!



In Loving Memory - Sally Meyers

By Kathy Cotter and Joyce Keating

Sally Meyers peacefully passed away August 25, 2011, at Abbot Northwestern Hospital from sudden heart failure. She was hospitalized the day before with a bruised and swollen leg from a fall. The fall was characterized by Sally as a "pickle" she had gotten herself into. She was preceded in death by her husband Oliver and survived by her three children, Nancy, Jody and Bruce, as well as numerous relatives and friends.

We know Sally as a gifted porcelain painter, Guild member and teacher. She had a unique, gentle and gracious painting style which echoed her personality. Did you know she hummed quietly while she painted? Also, we remember the times she said "Washes are essential" and "Do not overdo your painting". Sally would always wear a face mask when using solvents, golds, luster's and enamels, as they were all considered "stinky stuff". She was kind when offering criticism, but yet feisty when she felt an injustice.

Sally trained as an art teacher at the University of Minnesota. Teaching art to junior and senior high school students was both rewarding for her and challenging for her students, especially to those who took art as an easy credit. During her time as a substitute teacher, she was assigned everywhere – even the boys PE class, with locker room duty. You should have heard her opinion about that!

Besides raising her three children and caring for elderly relatives, Sally volunteered at the Institute for the Blind. She also played the piano and organ at church all the while holding other jobs and volunteer positions. In addition to her porcelain memberships, she was Eastern Star, and supported activities at the Shrine as well as her husband's various WWII Air Force Squadron activities.

Sally's entire porcelain collection (and it was substantial) was distributed among appreciative family members.

All who knew her will miss her.

Spring Luncheon/ Competition, Display, People's Choice?

By Nancy Bergman

Well, which is it? The MPAG has decided to combine all four groups to create a wonderful and simplified day. We have taken a new turn to the sharing and enjoying of our porcelain art. A lot will happen in this one day, so come happy and willing to embrace our friendship and art!

Our temporary plan is:

We have rented the large ballroom at Midland Hills for May 18th 2012. This includes tables and skirting.

- The room will be divided for display, competition, people's choice and lunch.
- We will have a very nice lunch (and maybe wine or a specialty drink) for our painters and guests.
- A small program and lots of happy conversations plus our mug or box exchange.
- When the day is done, you may take your porcelain home.

There will be more to tell you after the committee meets, and we will present the details to you at our next Guild meeting in March 2012. Everyone is so excited about the new path we are taking to enjoy our art!

Happy winter!

Guess Who?

She grew up on a small farm in Pennsylvania which had been in her family since the 1700's. She was the only granddaughter of her paternal grandmother and must have been a big disappointment, because she was also a terrible tomboy. In fact, it is an interesting irony that she would ever become interested in china.

She left home to study graphic design and become a commercial artist, as they were called back in the day. She fell in love with a fellow student during this time, graduated and got a job suited to her skills.

She and her boyfriend broke up leaving her very sad. She lived alone and many of her art school friends had moved away. Suddenly, she realized just how much of her time had revolved around this guy. She was very lonely but didn't like hanging out in bars to avoid her loneliness. So she did what any red-blooded girl would do, she bought her first motorcycle! It was a smaller motorcycle and was easy to learn to drive, since she was already familiar with a manual transmission. Oh, did she have fun on that bike.

About a year later she moved to Minnesota, and one night after working late at her job in Bloomington, she was driving home to Prior Lake around midnight. Someone was tailgating her the whole way up that long, lonely hill, and she didn't even HAVE a tailgate! The poor motorcycle didn't have the power to get her away from this person, and she knew she needed a more powerful bike...so she got one. It just happened to be the second fastest bike in the quarter mile that year, and was only three tenths of a second behind the fastest bike in the world. She really enjoyed that power!

After buying some of the bike parts from a dealer in Bloomington, she was told that if she ever decided to race, they would sponsor her. So she actually went to motorcycle racing school. While listening to the facts of racing she realized the danger of flying around a corner, leaning over hard, with someone's foot peg at her head and someone else's head by her foot peg. She realized that a little mistake on her part could kill someone or vice versa. With that, her racing career ended before it ever began. She kept her beloved bike until about six years ago. The bike is now in Germany fully restored to its former grandeur and still missed by this porcelain-painting dare devil.

Guess who? Find the answer elsewhere in this newsletter

Corrections to the roster (as of Nov 23rd) - The web site contains a corrected copy

Corrections are underlined

Lois Pribble - phone number - 952-854-1029

Mary Ann Malensek - address change - PO Box 2583 and email maum1@q.com

Donna Casey - address - 10599 74th Lane NE

Helen Sell - phone 952-884-5466 - also check address - 5718 Auto Club Circle Bloomington, MN 55437

New Members since the roster was printed:

Joan Hudson - 17714 67th St Becker, MN 55308-8774 Home 763-389-3534 Cell 763-370-6012

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Kim Harms - 20625 Devonshire Ave Farmington, MN 55024 651-214-4073 kimh04302@gmail.com

Tip and Tricks

Painting on Bisque by Susan Peterson

With Christmas just around the corner and Easter not that far behind, I thought this would be a good time to pass along some tips about painting on bisque. (I'm thinking ornaments and eggs.) The following tips come from [Beneficial Suggestions for the Discriminating Porcelain Artist](#) compiled by the Hill Country Porcelain Art Guild of Texas.

Sanding bisque is very important. Always sand thoroughly with a fine grade sandpaper before painting. After each fire, sand again lightly.

Lightly rub lavender oil over bisque before painting to help the brush glide over the surface more smoothly.

Matt paints are used on bisque because matte paints do not contain glaze, and thus fire dull, which is a nicer look on bisque. To matte your china paints, use 3 parts china paint to 1 part powdered Zinc Oxide, mixed as you normally would. Or you could also use a zinc oxide cream like Desitin.

Apply matte colors to bisque pieces as china paint is applied to glazed china with the following few exceptions.

- Paint lightly, feathering the edges off into the background, softening all edges by brushing, rubbing with a tissue, or padding with cotton and silk pad.
- Omit background since bisque itself has a lovely soft finish.
- Add just enough shadows and shading around the designs to frame them well by feathering and blending into soft touches.

An alternate way to paint on bisque is the water-based method using glycerin for the mixing and painting medium. Clean up with water. Obviously if you use the water-based method, you cannot rub lavender oil on the bisque, but instead, rub the piece thoroughly with a light coat of glycerin.

Avoid brown greens on bisque as they turn an ugly brown color. Always use liquid bright gold on porcelain bisque.

Fire at .018 or .017.

White Velvet by Ardy Bernier

I was so attracted to white velvet with the Mother of Pearl over it, that I had to give it a try. I tried on my own a couple of times, and that was a learning experience. Then I found some directions on the internet by Jackie Halhead, a lady from the UK. (You can Google "white velvet" and Jackie Halhead to see a video demonstration.) These are her directions, which I now follow:

Materials: white velvet texture powder, drying water-based medium, water, and a fine sponge for pouncing. I use a makeup sponge. Also, Mother of Pearl luster, a clean brush for applying the MOP, and finally, something to etch with, like the sharpened end of a stick, a cocktail stick, wooden cuticle stick, etc.

Mixing and applying the White Velvet:

To apply the white velvet, mix it with drying water-based medium to a consistency almost like tooth paste, then, add water to make a thinner consistency like heavy cream. Then, using a fine sponge, apply it to any appropriate area or border. Avoid applying too thick.....a nice fine even coat is far better. Work quickly in case it starts to dry before you have evened it out. Sponge and re-sponge to remove as many air bubbles as possible. It looks much better when it is very smooth and even. Set aside until is dried out thoroughly, preferably over night.

Remember the mix must be thin-ish but not too thin, and is better if applied very smoothly and evenly. When it has a somewhat paler, hard and very dry finish it is ready to etch. If you try to etch too soon, you will create bad areas that won't scratch out easily. It should turn powdery as you etch. You can speed things up with a hairdryer.

Keeping patterns random is the simplest method, because you don't have to try to keep matching patterns up. The trick is to expose as much shine (MOP) and light back onto the ware because the more you etch out back to the shiny surface of the china, the prettier it will be when finished. Start with a small project to get the hang of it.
Have fun!



Merry Christmas to you all!



"Christmas is all about Christ, and this is who we are in Him."

Christ's Bell

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3 :20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)
I belong to God
Do you know
Who you are?

**Keep this bell ringing...pass it on
'The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you;
The LORD turn His face toward you
And give you peace...'
Numbers 6:24-26**

Guess who answer - Deb Warwick