



THE LADYSLIPPER NEWSLETTER

Minnesota Porcelain Art Guild

September 2011

President's Plate

Wow is it HOT! Heat is what we count on to get the desired effects of our painted porcelain. We play with heat and we discover new techniques...because we are not afraid to try! We show our fellow artists what we have found and a new trend is started. That is what we can expect at our upcoming demos. New ideas mixed with the old ideas are what make us so addicted to porcelain. The demos promise to be informative and very entertaining. They are going to sizzle!!!

And, have no fear, many of the fun and interesting things that we have been preparing for the Event will be incorporated into our Guild schedule in the near future. So keep painting for the Art A la Carte, and we plan to have a small competition sometime in the spring. We will also try to have available for sale some of our estate pieces, Bill and Jerry's ornaments and some of the new products many of you have been anticipating purchasing and experimenting with. We have much to look forward to! The weather may be cooling down...but we are not!

Nancy Bergman
MPAG President
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In Loving Memory

On August 23, we lost one of our favorite teachers and honorary Guild members, Sally Meyers. We were stunned and saddened to hear of her passing. We always looked forward to seeing Sally at our Guild meetings and luncheons, and know she will be fondly remembered and greatly missed. Sally was 83. We will have a full memorial written in our next Lady Slipper.

November meeting update

Our November meeting will be Friday, Nov. 18.

The theme for the meeting will be “What else do you do?” There will be two hours devoted to sharing all our other hobbies with each other. We did this a few years ago, and some of you may remember I brought my African violets. We hope many of you can participate. If you have a friend who needs to be encouraged to bring their watercolors, lamp shades, stamped cards, Bonsai trees or whatever, please be that encouragement for them. Dodie Henry will coordinate, so please be in touch with her (651-463-3559). In two hours we should be able to cover many interests.

Save the dates

- September Meeting September 23rd
Lois Pribble & Dodie Henry Ideas – Demo

- October Meeting October 28th
Joyce Sandberg - Demo

- November Meeting November 18th
“The Other Things We Do”

- December Holiday Party December 2nd – Axel’s
Challenge piece – Bring to Holiday Party – “ Words
that inspire your painting”
Mug and Ornament exchange

Tips and Tricks

When designing your piece, always sketch on the porcelain with paint and a liner/scroller. That way, all your sketch lines can be incorporated as you paint. Also, sketch in a paint color similar to the subject to be painted. For example, sketch the yellow rose in yellow, but the leaves in green. This will make your sketch much easier to interpret as you begin your painting. Sketching in paint also frees you up to amend the design as you go and does not feel as restrictive or as distracting as a sketch with a sharpie, for example.

This following tip comes from Phyllis McElhinney for making your painting much more interesting. Do not clean your brush after you have finished with each color. Develop the technique of carrying paint from one color to another. (This will probably extend the life of your brushes, too.)

About the “Art A La Carte” event

It is with great disappointment that the MPAG October 10 – 12 Event has been cancelled due to lack of participation. We, the committee, have unanimously agreed that this cancelling was our best option.

Respectfully,
Val Naber, Mary Ann Putzier, Nancy Bergman and the Committee

Our heartfelt thanks to those who signed up for this Event. All monies will be refunded in full. We would also like to thank all the “worker bees” who have spent their time and energy organizing several components of the event: Diane Chase – Registrar; Lois Pribble – Competition; Deb Warwick – Special Exhibits; Kathy Svendsen – Education; Ardy Bernier – Food Activities; Pat Meyer – Bookkeeper.

There are several others who have contributed to the success of this event. We wish to thank them all.
Gratefully, Mary Ann Putzier and Val Naber

Teachers Corner

My years in the Porcelain Art Teachers Organization

September, 1972, I was accepted, as a teacher, into the Minnesota Porcelain Art Teachers. It was a thrilling time in my life. Not only did I begin teaching students who were interested in the fine art of porcelain, but I traveled all over the country meeting well known teachers, which I read about in the IPAT or China Decorator Magazines.

I attended schools in California, Michigan, Arizona, Alabama, and shows in other parts of the country. MPAT also put on shows, fundraisers, and egg and ornament sales. This paints a wonderful picture of what my life developed into, due to the art of porcelain painting.

Unfortunately, June 2011, this organization disbanded and again my life changed. Rose Wynne had the idea of forming a teacher's organization in 1965. She also wanted an organization where teachers and students could get together and paint. This was started in 1969 and called MPAG, the Guild. We have many memorable years, and it is with sadness that I write this letter.

- Thelma Granquist

Charter Members in 1965	Current Members at the time of disbanding, June 3rd, 2011
Rose Wynne - President	Donna Casey
Berdella Ayars - Program Chairman	Jacquie Frogh
Emily Botten - Vice President	Thelma Granquist - Treasurer and Historian
Ebba Danielson	Cathy Luedke
Harriett Haukeli - Secretary	Bonnie Martinson - President
Martha Johanson - Reporter	Sally Meyers
Valerie Pagenkopf - Historian	Mary Ann Putzier
Ruth Schmitz - Treasurer	Janaan Rasmusen
Adelaide Tissing - Corresponding Secretary	Terrie Regan - Vice President
	Ione Roland
	Alane Wood
	Bonnie Zopfi – Secretary

Through the years, there have been many additional certified teachers including

Frank Albrecht, Cathy Barker, Leta Clemons, Lisa Campbell, Sally Mudge, Pat Dahlager, Glorianne Michels, Bernice Elert, Geneve Reisdorph, Mary Jane Grandstrand, Louise Robinson, Julie Green, Ruth Schroeder, Becky Sigmond, Jerry Simertz, Kathleen Spilane, Mary Ellen Haggerty, Nancy Nicholson Williams, and many others.

This feels a little like the end of an era but also like the dawning of a new one.

In The Spotlight: PEARL SPANO

Pearl was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1921. She is 90 years young. She was born at home instead of the hospital because her mother had a choice of a hospital delivery or a sewing machine. She took the sewing machine, and had it (and Pearl) until she died. Pearl had two sisters, one, Ila, is still living at age 92.

Pearl's first job was at an Italian Grocery store, where her husband-to-be, George Spano caused a lot of teasing, coming in to buy lots of candy from her. They were married for 42 years, until his death in 1985 of a heart attack. At the time of his death, Pearl was in charge of the Guild's Porcelain Painting school, the first in Minnesota. Pearl and George were blessed with 3 children, Rick, Yvonne and Donald.

Pearl always was proficient in craft projects, and sewed most of her clothes. She was introduced to Porcelain Painting at a show in Brookdale, and signed up to paint with Nancy Nicholson. She has painted with Jean Myllenbeck and many other fine artists.

After joining the Guild, she served as president and has held many offices and been on committees too numerous to count. If you wanted a job done right, on time, and efficiently, you asked Pearl to take it on. She has won many ribbons for her work, including the coveted Lady Slipper award from the Minnesota Porcelain Artists. The Lady Slipper was awarded for Pearl's painting of a beautiful parrot. (Pearl, if you still have your parrot, please bring it to a meeting for us to admire.)

In 2007, Pearl went to college for Speech Communication and Art Design classes. She has never sat on her laurels where art is concerned. When asked about her years of Porcelain Painting, Pearl says she has met so many talented and interesting people, and God has blessed her with lifelong friends. We have been blessed also, to have such a faithful friend and fellow artist as Pearl....

Arlene Rehbein

Guess Who?

She was raised in a hockey-loving family with a father who played pick-up hockey and had season tickets for the North Stars. She also had a brother who was so talented that by the age of 16 he was being scouted by Lou Nanny. She has been a life-long hockey fan who always harbored a desire to "ride the Zamboni" at one of the professional games.

A few years ago, her husband was invited, as a company rep, to enjoy a Minnesota Wild game in one of the fancy suites. Of course, this porcelain painting wife was also in attendance. In a chance conversation, the question was asked, "How do you choose who gets to ride the Zamboni?" After a few brief sentences she realized that her dream was within her grasp. In 2008, during half time at a Wild game at the Excel Center, she was escorted out onto the ice where she mounted and rode the Zamboni with her best float-riding wave. A cherished autographed book by Lou Nanny soon followed.

Who is this mystery woman? Cherri Beisang!

Next Minnesota Porcelain Artist Challenge Piece

Piece: Choose from your collection

Theme: Verse, prayer, or song

Guidelines: What inspires you

Techniques: Use at least one principle of art and 1 or 2 different techniques (Raised paste, gold, color, etc.)

Be prepared to tell the group the element and technique you used on your porcelain.

The challenge: Pick a line or 2 from your favorite verse, prayer, or song and create a design based on what the words mean to you.

Due date: Bring to the Holiday Party

Contact Nancy Bergman 651-628-0848
nancybergman@comcast.net

Dakota County Fair

This fair always has a nice display of painted porcelain. I began going to admire the paintings a few years ago. After a couple of years, I was invited to compete. I explained that I could not because I do not live in Dakota County. I was told that to be eligible, one must live in Dakota or an adjacent county...so I'm in! Many of you are, too. To my knowledge, the only Guild members to compete in 2011 were Carol Barr, Elaine Conn, Dodie Henry, and I, Susan Peterson.

Dodie was awarded the Grand Champion for the Senior class, and I won the Grand Champion for the Adult class. This year all four of us won ribbons, and the ribbons at this fair are beautiful and fancy...fun to win!

Minnesota State Fair

The Minnesota State Fair always has some very impressive pieces, and this year was no exception. It is even more impressive when you consider that we are not professionals but rather housewives with hobbies. I, however, am always disappointed in the small number of both the paintings and participants. The only requirement for eligibility at the State Fair is that you reside in the state of Minnesota. To the best of my knowledge, the only Guild members to enter this year were: Carol Barr, Nancy Bergman, Sandy Callies, Val Naber, Helen Sell, Kathy Svendsen, and I, Susan Peterson. Carol and Helen entered as seniors, and so their work was not displayed with the rest of our porcelain, unfortunately. Our Sweepstakes painting by Val Naber (congratulation, Val) was also not displayed in our case, for some reason.

We did not have enough pieces to even fill the small case we are allotted. There were at least four non-porcelain pieces displayed in our case to take up space. There was one entire shelf that had only one piece of porcelain on it. I don't know how this works, but I would imagine that if we don't use our space, it could be taken from us and reassigned.

The Guild, as you know, contributes \$350.00 toward the premiums, which is added to what the Fair allots. This year \$202.00 in prize money was awarded out of a possible \$467.00. That means we left \$265.00 on the table. This happened, in part, because of our limited participation. I remember only one entry in the landscape category, for example.

I do know that some get discouraged when they do not win a ribbon. Believe me, I'm the first person to admit that winning is fun. The first several years I entered I did not win anything. But we have to ask ourselves why we enter. I enter in as many categories as I'm able, because I want a good showing for the public. I really want to do my part to keep our art alive. It is fun to linger near our display and listen to the comments of fair goers. Most are amazed at what we can do. Often I hear people voice a desire to see a particular painter's work,

because we do develop a bit of a following over time. This year I heard a woman looking for Dodie's paintings. Dodie, for years, has been a big winner in the Dakota County Fair and people look for her work. Unfortunately, she was not exhibiting at the State Fair this year.

We are always asking how we can get our art out where the public might see it and take an interest. The State Fair is our best opportunity to exhibit our work to a huge, new audience. It is also a wonderful opportunity to let the public actually experience our art with paint on porcelain. I know that some our demonstrators encouraged this type of audience participation and were able to take the names of some who may begin lessons. Thanks to our demonstrators: Carol Barr, Nancy Bergman, Ardy Bernier, Diane Chase, Carol Krech, Val Naber, Darlene Skovran, and Kathy Svendsen. Informational brochures about the Guild and our teachers were distributed. Good job, all! That's what it's all about!

Happy Painting by Carol Barr

Let's first mix the paint, and then we will approach the painting of the rose. The paint formula was given to me by Sonie Ames, the "Great Lady of Roses".

Equal parts of: Mixing Yellow
Medium Pink
Banding Blue

Mix these colors to a pure "gun metal grey". (If your mixture is a bit pink, add blue and yellow, if it is a bit green add pink, etc. until your grey is neutral)

This is the only time that you can mix (3) three primary colors that are usable. Usually when you mix more than two of the primary colors you automatically get mud.

Upon sketching your design with the above mixture onto your porcelain piece, begin by painting ONLY the shadows. On the second fire you can tint the rose with any one of the three colors you used to mix the gun metal grey.

Painting a 3/4 open rose, I start with the heart and next shade the bowl. I then paint only the shadows on the fall-away petals. I shape the outside petals with the background colors. On the third fire I wash the design with complimentary colors.

Do NOT over paint on the first fire or you will have a gun metal grey rose.

This and That - by editor, Susan Peterson

Ione Roland will be "In the Spotlight" in the December Lady Slipper...please let me know who you would like to see Spotlighted in future issues. Also, I welcome ideas, tips, and candidates for the Guess Who and any editorials you care to share. This is your voice, too.

The Lady Slipper is distributed on line these days, so if you have a friend who is not "on line", please print a copy for her.

Thank you to all the contributors to this issue of the Lady Slipper!