

Fairy Studio News

May 2007

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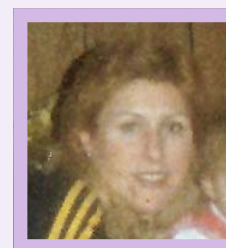
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- Celebrating our members Artist of the Month
- This Month's Challenge: "Greenman"
- Challenge Ideas: What would you like to do?
- New Challenge guidelines



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Artist of the Month - Bonna



Bonna - After

When I first came to this group, I was lurking about checking out all the wonderful things other members had made and looking at the member photos. I recall when I saw this picture, I thought..."OMG, does she really look like that?" It took several months to figure out that this was Bonna's way of sharing her sense of humor. She used to have a big ol' cigar hanging out of her mouth.

Several months later, she finally put this picture in the member section. I thought "what a beautiful person". She even quit smoking!

She has been a good friend to everyone in the group. Although Bonna has struggled in the past with some of the pieces for the challenge entries, she has come a long way and has steadily improved with each new project. Her most recent project was her beautiful Fantasy Tree which took a very close second in the voting. She has not been afraid to try new things. She isn't afraid to ask questions on how to. She shares little tidbits of humor with all of us. She is a wonderful person and a valuable member of this group. Being an Artist of the Month is not about how good the creations are, but how good the artist is.

Keep on keepin on! Judy



Nuts N' Bolts

Stage Baking. What is it? How is it done?

Stage baking or series baking is what one would do if adding different colors of clay to a piece or adding arms and hands or detailed work that involves excessive handling to the body. Many artists that create sculptures with outstretched arms or body movement will bake their piece in stages.

I start with the face/head. It is much easier for me to be able to move and turn the head without the weight of the body. Plus I don't need to worry about

smoothing any nice body parts below the neck. Once I have the face where I want it, I will bake it. When the head is cooled down, I will begin to build the upper torso and neck. I attach the head using some TLS (Translucent Liquid Sculpey) on the inside of the head and lower jaw and blend in fresh clay. I move it into the position I want. I leave the arms and lower torso



off at this point. Once I have the upper body detail and head where I want it, I bake again. I bake each stage at the temperature and time per thickness recommended. As I work my way down the body I can adjust the armature for the total body pose. When I get the right bend in the back, I will bake. I will use some batting to cover the face as I bake on the remaining stages. I do this so the face is protected from direct heat which could result in some discoloration since it is thinner and would heat up faster.

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Philosopher's Corner

Janet

I usually start Philosopher's Corner with a quotation...or at least incorporate one somehow, somewhere.

This one grabbed me recently (it was on my "Uncle John's Bathroom Reader" Calendar!) and simply *have* to share it with you!

"An excellent plumber is infinitely more admirable than and incompetent philosopher. The society which scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity, and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy be-

cause it is and exalted activity, will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water." -- John W. Gardner

How insightful is that?!

Water metaphor aside, I think we could apply crafters and artists to this idea, rather than plumbers and philosophers. Indeed, many other occupations would fit, and broader applications; that's surely what Mr. Gardner intended.

As beginners, we might read our

own efforts into the plumbing reference, don't you think?

If we strive to make our crafts, our beginning art efforts, qualify as Fine Art, then it will be so, in time.

If we are unmindful of what constitutes good crafting, or good art, it will never be well crafted. It will never be *art*.

What does the group mean to you?

If you would like to share your thoughts, email Sprite.

BRoKenPlanet@aol.com

Nuts N' Bolts

Continued

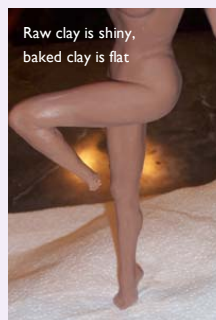
Moving back up to the arms, I will start with the shoulders and upper arms. I add some TLS where the shoulder will connect and add raw clay. Once the shoulder and upper arms are where I want them and I have the right muscle tone, I will bake again leaving the hands for the very last.

Doing the legs is the same...add some TLS to the hip of the torso and start with the first thigh. If legs will be crossed, only do one leg...usually the one where support is required to sit or stand. I go as far as the knee and then bake. Tweak the armature for the calf of



the leg so you get balance and the piece doesn't wobble when you set it down. Add some TLS to the knee area and add raw clay for the lower leg. While the clay is soft on the lower leg, check again for balance. You should not have the ankle part of the armature bent in an unnatural position, either too high or pointing downward making the piece unstable. Once the support leg is baked it becomes

easier to do the other. I will attach the foot after the leg is baked.



This brings me back to the arms. Once my lower body is completed, it's time for the forearms and hands. I will also add the details such as ears and anything else that



is more fragile and should not be handled as much. I will do the face paint next with the hair going on last

This is how I do it and I hope this has given some valuable information on the process of series baking, and please...ask any questions you can think of. We are here to help. Judy

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Contacts

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Just a little Something

Some of the members may recognize their creations in the Artist of the Month Awards. This is because I admire the work of our members and I always look for ways to showcase the accomplishments of our group. There are many other...perhaps more prestigious awards being given to artists, but I believe our members create with as much passion as more well known artists.

I hope you don't mind my using your art in this manner. Anyone that does not want me to use their photos only need to let me know.

Thank you for your inspiration.

Judy

April Challenge Results



Suni is the winner of the April Challenge with her adorable turtle wax sculpture. At least that's what it reminded me of when I saw the bathtub and the scrub brush.

All of the entries were unique and well done. Great job!

Congratulations!



New Challenge Guidelines

We have had to adjust the time frame in which the challenges end in an attempt to get the newsletter running on track. Because the end date has varied so much it has been impossible to distribute them on a consistent schedule because the prior and current challenge information needs to be included.

For future challenges, to make up for the time difference, we will begin posting the next months challenge during the last week of the current challenge so you can begin and

still have the same amount of time.



If you have any questions, please ask. Most importantly, have fun and good luck!



If you have a tip or a question,

Email Sprite:

BroKenPlanet@aol.com

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OOAK Supplies for OOAK Artists

ArcticFantasy & Alaskan SnowGoats
are proudly offering ...

Angora Mohair



approx. 5" long

Blond

Dark Silver

Washed well, needs some brushing

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My Wicked Ways

Angelina Fusible Film

4 in x 10 ft Rolls



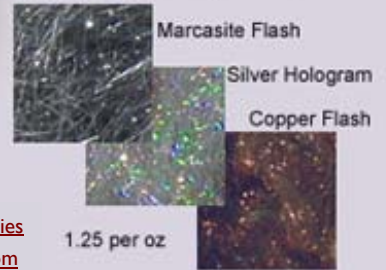
Desert Sunset Sparkle Cotton Candy Raspberry Sparkle Watermelon Lemon Sparkle

Angelina is available in 19 colors BPCAG price 3.00 per roll



OOAK Fantasy Wings
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Leaf



Alley Goop Mold Putty



Byzantia Jewel Paint

www.clayalley.com

Happy 2nd Anniversary

BPCAG!



To a great group of friends

Fairy Studio News

May 2007

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 May Challenge "Greenman" | 4 Stacy's BD | 5 Bonna's BD DeAnn's BD Chat 5:00 PT |
| 6 BPCAG BD | 7 | 8 Chat 1:00 ET | 9 Chat 7:00 ET | 10 | 11 | 12 Terry's BD Chat 5:00 PT |
| 13 | 14 | 15 Dawn's BD (UK) Chat 1:00 ET | 16 Banu's BD Chat 7:00 ET | 17 | 18 | 19 Chat 5:00 PT |
| 20 | 21 | 22 Chat 1:00 ET | 23 Chat 7:00 ET | 24 | 25 Jenny's BD (Farmtowntgirl) May Challenge Ends June Challenge begins | 26 Chat 5:00 PT |
| 27 Shateal's BD | 28 Challenge ends | 29 Tammy's BD | 30 | 31 | | |



Lots of cake for everyone!!!

HAPPY
Birthday!

If I have overlooked anyone, please let Suni know. Send birthday updates to Suni at:
suniann1123@yahoo.com

FairyBust Class

by Jean Bernard

This is an ongoing class using polymer clay and other mixed media. A great way to experiment using different products and different techniques

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Fantasy
Chair
Class



www.classheaven.com