



# International Polymer Clay Association Newsletter

February 2009

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## Welcome to 2009 and a New International Polymer Clay Association

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### Contact Us

<http://www.ipca.org>

By E-mail

This is the space for you to communicate with the Polymer Clay community. Send materials for consideration in the next IPCA newsletter by the deadline February 22, 2009. Send to [administration@theipca.org](mailto:administration@theipca.org).

### *New Board Members*

As you already know, the Board of the International Polymer Clay Association elects half the Board every year. The newest Board members want to share their vision for their terms with the membership:

As president of the IPCA, I'd like to make a contribution by helping to increase the understanding and appreciation of polymer clay among artists in other media and in the art-buying public. In pursuing this goal, I believe it's important to foster better communication and cooperation between the IPCA and local guilds in the United States and other countries. On a personal level, I hope to expand my horizons by meeting, working with, and learning from more of the talented, generous artists in this diverse international community.

*Suzanne Ivester*  
**President**

I am proud to be serving as Vice President on the IPCA committee and I am looking forward to sharing this time with so many dedicated, talented and wonderfully warm people. The IPCA is entering an exciting and challenging period of metamorphosis, bringing clay artists at every stage of their creativity together in a way never been seen before. I am content to play a part in this process.

*Kerrie Venner*  
**Vice President, Education & Outreach**

I am new, new, new - the new recording secretary, new to IPCA and new to claying! I got hooked less than a year ago when our local bead store owner loaned me one of Christi Freisen's books and it's been non-stop ever since. My creative background is in drawing and painting and I had never even considered 3d work, but I find it relaxing and exciting - and I love the colors! My hope is that more traditional artists will take up this fabulous medium and add a new dimension both to their own work and to the claying community.

*Kaaren Poole*  
**Recording Secretary**

I am the new Treasurer of the newly redefined International Polymer Clay Association. I saw an opening in the nominations slate for the NPCG board last fall and decided to step up as I think it is important for people to give back to organizations that enrich their knowledge of their craft. Coming from a weaving background I think I bring an unusual perspective to this wonderful material, and other than keeping the Association checkbook balanced and the bills paid, I would like to find new ways to bring crossover crafts into the clay world and vice versa.

*Karen Woods*  
**Treasurer**

New means excitement, passion, discovery and embarking upon something which is unfamiliar and strange. We are at an enormous crossroads and as the first International Guild Liaison representative I would like to ensure that that crossroads is encountered safely, respectfully and at all costs with a sense of humour. To bring an International dimension into the IPCA means to be an all-embracing association. I hope that during my time in office I will rise to the challenge and create a happy international community of clayers.

*Kylee Milner*  
**International Guilds Liaison**

In 2009 I hope to find new ways for the IPCA and regional guilds to work together to further our common missions and increase membership of both the IPCA and the regional guilds. On a personal level, I hope to continue to explore new creations in polymer clay while creating the work that people have been buying over the last decade or more.

*Lenora Kandiner*  
**Local Guilds Liaison**

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## From the IPCA Executive Director

An old Irish proverb says, "Find a job you *love*, and you'll never work another day." That's how I feel about work in the arts. I always wanted to be an artist, but only seriously considered it when encouraged by my high school art teacher. My belief in the importance of early arts education began then and is still one of my primary objectives.

After ten years in the corporate sector, my interest in the "business" of art led back to the completion of a BA in Fine Arts and Museum Studies, with graduate work and ongoing study in non-profit management. I have been fortunate to have been actively involved with museums, cultural organizations, and arts associations for the past fifteen years, and continually inspired by mentors, artists, and directors. Their commitment to collaboration and excellence in programming served as a format not only for success, but for the realization of the highest aspirations in the arts.

I have been a member of large organizations such as the American Association of Museums, the National Main Street Project, and the Kennedy Center Imagination Center, a staff member in established museums and cultural centers, and a consultant with regional artists' consortiums and grassroots cultural groups. The common denominator in all is the ability to utilize a system of organization and program development, based on solid business principles, to enable a creative approach to outreach, sponsorship, and membership services. In other words, not to "reinvent the wheel".



But the operative questions in every organization are: what do we offer our members, our constituencies, and our potential partners that continue to merit their involvement and support? Over the next few months I would like to encourage an active dialogue from the Board and membership-at-large in responding to these questions. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to work with you on expanding and steering the IPCA to the benefit of our members and the fulfillment of our mission.

*Kathy Reynolds*  
Executive Director, IPCA

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## IPCA Retreat 2009: A World of Inspiration

The International Polymer Clay Association and the 2009 Retreat Committee are pleased to announce the details of the upcoming IPCA Retreat, *A World of Inspiration*. The dates of the retreat are the afternoon of July 11 through the morning of July 14, 2009. Early, discounted registration of the event will open for members of the IPCA in mid-February and continue through the end of March. Standard registration will continue through the end of June.

Your registration for the *2009 IPCA Retreat: A World of Inspiration* includes the following amenities:

- 3+ days of clay-filled camaraderie with polymer clay artists from all over the world
- Access to the [resort services](#) of our venue, the [Hilton Chicago Indian Lakes Resort](#) in Bloomingdale, Illinois
- Discounted lodging rates of \$99 (plus tax)
- Selected meals:
  - Welcome Reception, the afternoon of Saturday, July 11
  - Sunday Brunch, Sunday afternoon coffee & soda break
  - Monday morning coffee & soda break, Monday lunch
  - Tuesday lunch, Closing Banquet
- Generous 36" x 30" (91 x 76 cm) workspaces with access to electricity
- Ability to sell your work from your individual workspace\*
- Monitored ovens for curing work\*\*
- Ongoing demonstrations, including a full day of demos with our Guest Artist
- Retreat Attendee Swap
- 2009 Retreat Bead Strand
- Shopping from on-site suppliers
- Give-aways and more!

The Registration Fees for the 2009 Retreat are as follows:

- Members only Early Registration: \$375
- Members Registration: \$400
- Nonmember Registration: \$450

You may purchase meal plans for your traveling companions. Single tickets for the Closing Banquet are \$45. Full meal packages, which include access to the coffee/soda breaks, are \$200.

Souvenir t-shirts will be available for purchase at the time of registration. The t-shirt design will be posted to the IPCA website.

\*As a courtesy to your table-mates, displays of work for sale may not exceed 18" in height.

\*\* All attendees will be required to volunteer for one or more hours of oven monitoring duty during the days of the retreat.

## Our Guest Artist



The Guest Artist for the 2009 IPCA Retreat is well-known polymer clay artist and teacher (and all around great gal), [Christi Friesen](#)! Christi will spend most of Monday, July 13 holding scheduled demonstrations as well as being available to Retreat Attendees for questions, critiques and advice.

Christi teaches all over the world, publishes a series of books and individual project sheets and sells supplies and art through her website. She's a lively and dynamic individual and you will love spending time with her, both in the Retreat Workroom and during her Demo Day.

## The Venue: Hilton Chicago Indian Lakes Resort

The Chicago Polymer Clay Guild helped the IPCA select the [Hilton Chicago Indian Lakes Resort](#) in Bloomingdale, Illinois as the venue for the 2009 Retreat. This upscale resort is a half-hour from Chicago's O'Hare Airport and offers many amenities including an award-winning golf course, spa, fitness center, pools, on-site restaurants and lounges, as well as unique rooms with stunning views of the countryside. Nearby, a variety of restaurants and shopping areas are available to meet your whims and needs.



### Reservations

We have negotiated a special rate of \$99 (plus taxes) for single OR double occupancy. Room reservations may be made at any time by calling 1-630-529-0200 and requesting the NPCG rate.

### Transportation

If you are driving to Chicago or renting a car at the airport, the Indian Lakes Resort offers free self-parking or valet parking for a fee.

If you need transportation to the Resort, the Hilton recommends A-1 Airport Limousine Service, Inc. for transportation from O'Hare or Midway Airports to the hotel. Shared car rates from O'Hare are \$23 per person. They also offer competitive rates to/from downtown Chicago from the resort.

To make reservations, you can call (630) 833-3788 or visit their website at <http://www.a1limousine.com>.

## Shipping Materials to the Event

Now that airlines are charging fees for baggage, it may be more convenient and cost effective to ship your heaviest materials ahead to the hotel. The Hilton will allow guests to ship boxes to the hotel within five days of the event's start date. The charge to receive boxes up to 50 pounds is \$5.00 per box. You can also ship boxes back home for \$5.00 per box, in addition to the postage. A shipping form will be available for download on the IPCA website.

Note: the United States Postal Service offers large, flat-rate [Priority Mail](#) boxes that ship up to 75 pounds for \$13.95.

## Volunteering

As you well know, events of this scale must include the hard work of many volunteers. While a number of key volunteer positions are filled, there are many more areas that still need some helping hands from IPCA members. Committee members communicate through a Yahoo! group and will participate in periodic telephone conferences as needed.

Currently, the 2009 Retreat committee is comprised of the following IPCA members:

- Judy Belcher (Raffle/Auction and Bead Strand)
- Ellen Bellenot (Oven Captain)

- Jenny Bezingue (Chicago Guild Representative)
- Barbara Forbes-Lyons (Chair and Registrar)
- Suzanne Ivester (Swapmeister)
- Ann Kruglak
- Marcia Laska
- Julie Picarello (Oven Captain)
- Kathy Reynolds (IPCA Executive Director)
- SL Savarick (Public Relations)
- Donna Stein (Demomeister)
- Kerrie Venner

The following committees need chairmen and committee members:

- Demonstration Scheduling: 2 committee members
- Raffle/Auction: 2 committee members shared with Vendor/Donation
- Vendor Booths and Donations: 1 chair, 2 committee members shared with Raffle/Auction
- On-site Check-in: 5 needed on Saturday, 2 on Sunday morning
- Closing Banquet Program: 2 volunteers needed
- Closing Day 'Sweep': 1 chair, 5-10 volunteers needed

If you are able to volunteer in one or more areas, please contact the Retreat Chairperson at [retreat2009@theipca.org](mailto:retreat2009@theipca.org).

## *Metal Clay World Conference*

Immediately following the IPCA Retreat, [Art Clay Silver USA](#) is hosting the 2009 Metal Clay World Conference at the Hilton Indian Lakes Resort. Pre-conference workshops begin on July 13 and the Metal World Conference runs from July 16-18. The event includes classes and presentations by IPCA members Lorrene Davis, Maria Martinez, Lisa Pavelka and IPCA Board member Cindy Silas plus many other artists in the metal clay and metalworking community.

Consider staying on a few days extra and exploring this exciting medium!

For more information, please visit <http://www.metalclayworldconference.com>.

## *Miscellanea*

*If I have questions, who do I contact?*

The official e-mail address for the event is [retreat2009@theipca.org](mailto:retreat2009@theipca.org).

*Can I communicate with other attendees to find a roommate?*

Of course! We have set up a special Yahoo! Group for attendees. To join, please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IPCARetreatAttendees>.

*What are the hours for the Workroom?*

Generally speaking, the Workroom will be open from 8 AM until Midnight daily. However, oven monitor schedules will vary based on scheduled meals and breaks. A more detailed schedule will be distributed to all attendees.

*Will electricity be available at the worktables? What electric-powered items can we use (or not use)?*

Task lights and mobile phone/music player chargers will be allowed. We recommend you bring a short extension cord in the event that your cords do not reach the power strip being provided.

Pasta machine motors will not be allowed in the workroom. You may set up a machine-driven conditioning station in your hotel room if you wish.

Radios and other amplified music players will not be allowed in the workroom. You may bring a personal music player (iPod, CD player, etc.) and use it with headphones/earbuds.

*Are there any other workroom restrictions?*

Smoking and alcoholic beverages will not be allowed in the workroom.

As a courtesy to attendees with health problems, we request that you refrain from using perfumes or heavily scented soaps and lotions during the event.

We request that mobile phone ringers be set to vibrate or the lowest volume setting so as not to disturb others. Please conduct all mobile phone conversations outside the workroom.

*I have a technique that I want to show everyone, will that be allowed?*

Of course! The Registration form will have an area where you can indicate your preferred demonstration day and a general time. Check the Demonstration Schedule board in the Workroom each day to see when you are scheduled or to sign up for an additional time slot.

*I have food sensitivities / am vegan - will I be able to eat at the event?*

Reasonable efforts will be made to meet the dietary needs of attendees whenever possible. Please be sure to complete the "Special Needs" section of the Registration Form so that we can accommodate you.

*Is there a cap on registration?*

Not at the current time. If we approach the maximum number of people allowed for the reserved space, an announcement will be made on the IPCA website.

*Can I bring a spouse/friend/family member?*

You are welcome to share your travel and hotel expenses with whomever you wish and the Indian Lakes Resort would be a great place for a family vacation! However, worktables are reserved for registered attendees only. We cannot accommodate additional visitors at the worktables.

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## International Association Updates

There will be a planning meeting in February to transition the new Executive Board of the IPCA and to work on future objectives, its bylaws, and directions for the organization. If you have any topics for discussion, please send them to [Kathy Reynolds](#) by February 20.

### *ACREs of Opportunity*

The final three artists for the NPCG booth at the [ACRE](#) show in Las Vegas have been selected! The artists who will be attending ACRE, representing the possibilities of polymer clay and taking orders for their work are: [Lauren Abrams](#), [Pat Bolgar](#) and [Barbara Fajardo](#).

### *CODAchrome*

Winning designs from Progress & Possibilities Exhibition will be selected for a special exhibit and sale to be held during the Craft Organization Development Association (CODA) conference. The exhibit will continue through August 2009. The exhibit is being assembled by the American Woodturner's Association, hosts of this year's CODA conference and will include work by each attending organization.



Now available: "I Can't Believe I'm Creating Millefiore Leisure Arts #4727)" by Anne Igou on Amazon.com. \$14.95.

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## Awards/Call for Entries

(Refer to [Art Calendar](#) magazine for expanded listings)

### Awards

*Interweave's* [Bead Star winners](#) have been announced.

[2009 NICHE Award](#) finalists have been announced. Winners will be announced Feb. 15, 2009 during the Buyer's Market of American Craft show in Philadelphia, PA.

### Call for Entries

#### Halstead Bead Jewelry Business Development Grant

Deadline: June 17, 2009

Award: \$5,000 cash+

No entry fee required

[www.halsteadbead.com/grant](http://www.halsteadbead.com/grant)

Halstead Bead, Inc. is calling for entries to its fourth annual Business Development Grant competition for new American jewelry designers entering the bridge jewelry trade. The grant will be awarded to a winning candidate in August. All finalists will be eligible for a mentorship program that matches new designers with established and successful jewelry entrepreneurs. The Halstead Bead Business Development Grant differs from other jewelry industry competitions and awards because of its emphasis on business skills. Entrants must demonstrate extraordinary design, and a strong business strategy.

Designers utilizing a wide variety of fabrication techniques including casting, lampworking, precious metal clay, beading, or metalsmithing are eligible to enter the competition. Candidates must be US citizens who began their businesses after January 1, 2006. Previous grant winners include Bridgland Studios, Belle Brooke Designs, and Ananda Khalsa Jewelry.

#### Rings and Things

Rings & Things 2009 contest will accept entries from February 1 through February 28, 2009. In addition to the 2008 winners previously noted, Lorrene Davis won an honorable mention for one of her [metal clay designs](#).

#### Annual Ugly Necklace Contest

[2009 Ugly Necklace Contest](#) is now open - deadline is March 15, 2009

#### Bead Star 2009

Bead Star 2009 contest rules are now available. Check out the [IPCA website](#) for complete details.

#### 2010 NICHE Awards

Applications for the 2010 NICHE award contest will be available Spring 2009.

#### Polymer Clay Productions

PCP is hosting classes and they're looking for teachers who are willing to "cast" from their own homes. For teaching, attending classes and general information, visit [Craftedonline.com](http://Craftedonline.com).

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## Events and Classes

### Events

Tucson in February - for complete listing of shows going on in the Tucson, AZ area, visit the [Tucson Show Guide](#)

[ACC Baltimore](#) - February 24 - March 1, 2009, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD

[Bead Fest - Santa Fe](#) - March 12-March 15, 2009, Santa Fe, NM. Dayle Doroshow and Meredith Arnold are both teaching polymer workshops during this event - sign up today!

[CRAFTBOSTON](#) - March 27-29, 2009, Seaport World Trade Center, 200 Seaport Blvd., Boston, MA

[ACC St. Paul](#) - April 17-19, 2009, St Paul River Centre, 175 West Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN

2009 Smithsonian Craft Show - April 23-26, 2009, Washington, D.C. National Building Museum

[ACC San Francisco](#) - August 14-16, 2009, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA

### Classes and Workshops

#### Portuguese Polymer Group

July 4, 5, 2009

Lisbon, Portugal

Boxes with Personality

A two day class that explores three types of box construction as well as surface design. Bring in a favorite bead to add to your lid or as another element inside your box.

<http://www.associacaoartemassapolimera.pt/>

contact: Cristina [apampgeral@gmail.com](mailto:apampgeral@gmail.com)

#### That Creative Place

[That Creative Place](#) - hosting clay and clay-related classes - ongoing dates. Upcoming classes include:

- Christi Friesen, February 13, 2009
- Dayle Doroshow, February 18, 2009
- Barb Fajardo, March 21, 2009

#### Other Classes

**Meredith Arnold** will be teaching two workshops through the [South Florida Jewelry Arts Guild](#) - Miami, FL beginning March 19, 2009. The two workshops combined will result in an etched metal and polymer bracelet similar to her bracelet in the Dec. issue of Jewelry Artist magazine.

**Julie Eakes** will be teaching 'Face Canes' at Annie Hooten's, Albuquerque, New Mexico - March 28-29, 2009. Contact [Annie](#) for information and registration (505.228.8703).

**Lindly Haunani** will be teaching a workshop at the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Kentucky - Feb. 28 through March 1, 2009. For information contact [Leslie Blackford](#).

**Dan Cormier** will be teaching a 2-day workshop on Building Better Beads - March 7-8, 2009. Tampa, Florida. Contact [Karen Woods](#) for a flyer or to register.

The [Orlando Clay Fandango](#) - March 12-16, 2009, St. Augustine Beach, Florida - space is limited

[MDPAG Retreat](#) (Metro Detroit Polymer Art Guild) - March 26-29, 2009, Clarkston, MI

For events beyond March 2009, please visit the [IPCA website](#).

Does your local guild have an upcoming workshop or class - or are you hosting a workshop or class? Log in to the [IPCA website](#) to post your information and to be included in the [events calendar](#).

Not sure if there is a local guild near you? Visit the NPCG website to find a local guild - and to see the [events and classes](#) posted.

For art events worldwide - visit *American Craft Magazine's* [calendar](#).

## Exhibitions

### **TRANSFORMATIONS: 2008 NJ Arts Annual**

New Jersey State Museum

205 West State Street

Trenton, NJ

October 18, 2008 - March 15, 2009

info: [JennyMartin@SOS.STATE.NJ.US](mailto:JennyMartin@SOS.STATE.NJ.US)

### **MATERIALS: HARD AND SOFT**

GDAC Center for the Visual Arts

400 East Hickory St.

Denton, TX

January 30 - March 29, 2009

info: [www.dentonarts.org](http://www.dentonarts.org)

### **SCULPTING COLOR IN YOUR HANDS**

Fuller Craft Museum

455 Oak Street

Brockton, MA

August 8 - November 22, 2009

info: [www.fullercraft.org](http://www.fullercraft.org)

If you have your work on display, please be sure to send details by the 22nd of the month prior to distribution.

### **UnFAUXgettable**

The Lexington MA Polymer Clay Guild is pleased to announce its 3rd Annual Gallery Exhibit, "UnFAUXgettable" an exhibit inspired by Tory Hughes and her book, "Polymer the Chameleon Clay". The Guild strives to use their yearly exhibit at LACS to help educate the public about polymer clay and encourage participation in workshops.

On view Feb 1 to Feb 14 in the Parsons Gallery of the Lexington Arts and Crafts Society, 10 Waltham St., Lexington, MA is a new exhibit presented by the Lexington MA Polymer Clay Guild entitled "UNFAUXGETTABLE !"

This exhibit showcases the versatility of polymer clay and the ability of artists working in the medium to generate almost any artistic effect imaginable. Many techniques make use of polymer clay's versatility to imitate other materials through texture, color, translucency, layering and other properties. Other effects are achieved through the use of paints, patinas and surface actions like carving or polishing to generate the look of faux materials. Skill and craftsmanship are key in creating faux expressions which make the viewer ask? "Is it real or is it faux?".

If you become inspired to learn any of these faux techniques, the Lexington MA Polymer Clay Guild offers workshops throughout the year at LACS, check the workshop listings at [www.lexingtonma.org/LACS](http://www.lexingtonma.org/LACS).

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, noon to 4:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; Sunday noon to 4:00 pm. Admission and parking are free.

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## Charitable and Social Efforts

You can help to make a difference! Check out the organizations/efforts listed below and consider sharing some of your talent, time and creativity.

## Change.org

Take a moment to join [Change.org](#) (if you aren't already a member) and vote to let our government know you agree that American made souvenirs should be displayed and sold in our national parks.

## Arrowmont

[Arrowmont](#) needs your help - they have lost their lease! The Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts has played a vital role in the growth of the NPCG/IPCA. Many a polymer workshop and retreat has been held on the Arrowmont grounds.

Arrowmont also provides high quality art and craft instruction and outreach to Sevier County schools and is key partner in Gatlinburg's craft community. Further, the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts is a key participant in a brand new Tennessee Department of Tourism initiative, undertaken as a partnership with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the National Geographic Society, the University of Tennessee, and the Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU. This effort, to establish "sustainable heritage tourism" in Gatlinburg, is designed to work as an economic engine attracting high quality tourism and increased tourist revenue to the gateway cities of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the surrounding region. Visit <http://www.arrowmont.org/arrowmontnews.html> to learn more.

## Ongoing Efforts

[Bead of Courage](#) and [how to help](#); ["Hearts for Heroes"](#) and [how to help](#)

This is the space for you to communicate with the Polymer Clay community. Send materials for consideration in the next IPCA newsletter by the deadline February 22, 2009. Send to [administration@theipca.org](mailto:administration@theipca.org).

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## Local Guild News

A new Guild is forming in central Vermont. Anyone interested in joining the group can contact [Christine Damm](#) for more information.

Sylvie Peraud announced the creation of a new association in France, Gathering Polymer and Metal Clays. Its name is "[LezArt'gil](#)" which in fact means "the clays". The objectives of this association are quite similar to those of the IPCA: concentrate and share information, educate by the means of workshops, conferences, publications, have polymer and metal clays recognized as artistic mediums.

[Additional Local Guild News](#) updates are available at the IPCA website.

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## Ongoing Multi-Media Resources and Blogs

[Craft Cast](#) - podcasts hosted by Alison Lee - download artist interviews for use on your iPod or listen online

[Polymer Clay TV.com](#)

[Swoondimples](#) - Heather Wynn's blog

[Polymer Clay Daily](#) - Cynthia Tinapple's blog

[IndieArtVideo](#) - blog of the publisher/producer of a multi-media magazine in DVD format

[Facebook](#) is the 5th most trafficked site in the world. It has over 63 million active users, and that doubles every 6 months. Mari Smith discussed how to use Facebook as another way to create visibility for you and your art at the smARTist Telesummit 2009 last month. Recordings are available by contacting [Artist Advocate Magazine.com](#).

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## Publications, Newsletters, and Media Resources

[Polymer Art Archive](#) documents the early development of polymer art with weekly posts about polymer work which is not represented elsewhere on the internet.

*American Style Magazine* features a polymer clay co-op in the next issue, along with photos and editorials. According to its editorial staff, if people weren't aware of polymer clay before, they certainly will be now! There will be extended coverage online at <http://www.americanstyle.com>

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## Arts Advocacy

### Arts & Economy Report

The National Governors Association has released a new 40-page report, [Arts & the Economy: Using Arts and Culture to Stimulate State Economic Development](#), that demonstrates the vital role that arts and culture industries play in the economic health of every state. Using concrete examples from many states, the report details benefits provided by the creative industries - including job creation, increased tourism, and ways the arts give businesses a creative edge.

Arts & the Economy was prepared in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and NASAA. Read this report and the six Issue Briefs that have resulted from this collaboration at: <http://www.nasaa-arts.org/nasaanews/nga.shtml>

### Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF)

CERF invites you to look at their [Yearbook 2008](#): which is a sampling of the artists they assisted this past year. In this atmosphere of uncertainty, two things remain constant. The first is that craft artists will continue to create tangible objects that are beautiful and inspired. The second constant is that some of those artists will face career-threatening emergencies that will challenge their ability to continue creating the objects we value.

CERF asks that you consider a donation so that it can continue to assist artists in 2009 as it has in 2008 and over the last 23 years, to help them keep temporary setbacks for artists from turning into permanent silence.

### Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act

After the many toy recalls in 2007 and early 2008, Congress acted swiftly to create and approve legislation that has come to be known as the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA). The intent of the law, to protect our nation's children from toxic substances, is a noble cause. Unfortunately, the law has caused many unintended consequences for handcrafters throughout our nation. Simply stated, the law requires third party batch testing and labeling for all products created for children under the age of 12. This not only includes toys, but books, clothing, accessories, school equipment, and the list goes on. For large manufacturers who work in batches totally in the thousands, this is not a major expense, but for artisans, this is cost prohibitive.

We, at Wholesalecrafts.com have been watching the enactment of this law, which was to go in affect February 10, 2009, but thankfully, a 'stay' has been granted. The law affects makers and sellers of all products for children under the age of 12 that have not been certified to be below the new national standard for lead and phthalates (a chemical that makes plastics more pliable).

Currently, groups such as the Handmade Toy Alliance ([www.handmadetoyalliance.org](http://www.handmadetoyalliance.org)), are working hard to have Congress adapt common sense amendments, such as component based testing certification and natural materials exemptions, to the CPSIA. Their idea, "Save Small Business from the CPSIA" was one of the top ten ideas for change on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) - a President Obama initiative - and was presented to President Obama upon his inauguration. They are now working with the change.org team to pair with a non profit agency to build national awareness of the CPSIA and its affects on small business. Their collective voices are being heard, but there is much work to be done and without a formal lobby or lawyers, the path to enact change is long. As artists, retailers, and arts managers, we all know the passion and energy that goes into our businesses. We are a community and often come together in times of trouble to support one another. The children's craft market needs your help!

There is still much work to be done to change the CPSIA. This week, a proposal by Sen. DeMint (SC) will be heard on the Senate floor to amend the CPSIA. We urge you to write a letter to your Members of Congress letting them know

that you are aware of the CPSIA and the unintended consequences it has on artists throughout our nation. Tell your legislators that common sense changes need to be made to help small businesses comply with the CPSIA and should be enacted in the law. Urge them to support the technical amendment before them. To find the Congress people in your district, go to: [http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW\\_by\\_State.shtml](http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml). To read more about the technical amendment that will be introduced, click [here](#).

For more information and additional ways that you can help, please visit [www.handmadetoyalliance.org](http://www.handmadetoyalliance.org). Thank you for your help with their mission.

**Nancy Vince, President**

[www.Wholesalecrafts.com](http://www.Wholesalecrafts.com)

[www.ACRELasVegas.com](http://www.ACRELasVegas.com)

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## Commercial Advertising Opportunities

*Artist Advocate Magazine* is mailed to 6,500 galleries and can showcase work to help artists contract with an art gallery. Unfortunately, many artists are simply not in a position to invest in a full- or half-page ad. To answer their need, *Artist Advocate* has developed the *Artist Directory*, which will appear inside a future issue of *Artist Advocate*. For more information, visit <http://www.artistadvocatemagazine.com>.