

# Canton's Partnership for the Arts and Humanities

The Partnership for the Arts and Humanities is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) cultural arts organization established to serve in cooperation with the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage.

The Partnership shares the mission of the Commission to encourage the development of arts and serve as advocates for the arts and arts education. It does this by providing support to local arts organizations and cultural activities through a grant making process. It has awarded grants to The Village Theater resident groups such as Spotlight Players and Orchestra Canton as well as cultural education events like the African American History through Artists Eyes field trip for K-12 grade students. The Partnership has also funded national and regional acts and public art, in addition to other community initiatives identified by the Commission.

By contributing to the Partnership, you are supporting its vision and that of the Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage to ensure high quality cultural arts that are accessible to and sustained by the Greater Canton community.

This is one of many opportunities that Jennifer Tobin touched on in her presentation at our November meeting. Visit Canton's website at [www.canton-mi.org/arts](http://www.canton-mi.org/arts) to learn more about this and other important programs.



## *Three Cities Art Club*

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**Winter Scene**, watercolor  
by member **Doree Dziobak**

# *Three Cities Art Club*

## January 2009 Newsletter



SNACKS FOR  
JANUARY ~  
**June Porta**

**Monday, January 5th 7 - 9 p.m.**

**Canton Township Hall**

1150 Canton Center Road South

**Lower Level - Meeting Room A**

**Polymer Clay Workshop**

by member **Cindy Bolton**



## January Program

### Polymer Clay Workshop By Cindy Bolton

Here is a chance for us to learn how to use clay polymer from member Cindy Bolton. Cindy will teach us about conditioning the material, explain and show us how to make



“canes”, the best techniques for cutting canes, how to cure and or fire pieces and ways in which they can be finished.

Each of us will have the chance to create a piece of our own to take home; perhaps a key chain or a pen covered in polymer clay.

Polymer clay can be used in many ways some of which include:

- **Sculpting.** Hand-shaped items can be any size from "miniatures" to quite large. Bas relief can also be created.



- Creating **beads** and **jewelry** of all kinds, such as pendants, earrings, barrettes, and buttons.
- "**Cover**"ing items made from materials such as glass, metal, cardboard, terra cotta, and some plastics. Popular items for covering include pens, eggshells, votive candle-holders, and switch-plates. Larger items, such as tables, can also be veneered.
- Creating **vessels** large and small. Jars, boxes, bowls, and container pendants can be created freestanding, or over permanent or removable armatures.
- Onlaying clay with other materials to create **collages**.
- Creating **paintings** with polymer pastes.
- Creating **practical utility items** such as frames, games and game pieces, dioramas, toys, mini-books, notebook covers, greeting cards, and postcards.

## Sales Tax License

The Michigan state sales tax license obligates you to collect all applicable state and local taxes when selling your art, but it also gives you a sales tax exemption on items purchased for resale. It will save you money when you buy supplies or have framing done. Keep all your receipts - even if you're a hobbyist. You can deduct your expenses on your tax return.

### Members Bring 1 or 2 New Entries for Popular Vote Competition

Members are encouraged to bring 1 or 2 new works of art (new to the Popular Vote competition) to our monthly events where attendees will vote for their favorites and the first, second and third place winners will receive points. These points will be accumulated throughout the season. The winning artists will win cash prizes and first place may have a chance for a solo exhibit at a local art gallery!

#### November Winners



**1st Place:**  
**Mary Rakay**  
her husband fishing  
off a dock

**2nd Place: Doree Dziobak**  
snow scene with birch trees

**3rd Place: Nancy Savage**  
fish triptych

### Newsletter News?

Share news of honors, awards, upcoming shows and events which are of interest to our readers. Please bring information to our monthly events and/or send information for publication to Marilyn Meredith via mail, email or fax to (248) 557-6442. The deadline for news items is two weeks prior to meeting date.

# About Polymer Clay

In the early 1940s, Zenith Products Company was founded in Schiller Park, IL. Zenith began as a company that manufactured coatings for the fastener industry: waxes, hot melt compounds, and electrical insulating varnishes. The product that we know today as "Sculpey" was originally formulated for potential use as a thermal transfer compound - to conduct heat away from the cores of electrical transformers. However, this formulation was not successful for that purpose, so the compound was temporarily shelved. A visitor to the manufacturing plant was "doodling" with a lump of the clay-like substance and created a small figure. It was then baked in a lab testing oven - and Sculpey was "discovered" as a sculpture medium. This happened in the mid 1960's. By 1967, it was being manufactured and sold on a small scale in the United States.

The history of polymer clay as an art medium is only decades long, unlike many media that have been around for centuries and have long traditions. This newness means that there is a great deal of innovation by users of polymer clay. Often, ideas are born by borrowing from the traditions of some other materials, such as metalworking, ceramics, glass, paper, etc.

Original formulations of polymer clay remain soft until cured at relatively low temperatures, but air-dry polymer clays have recently been added to the market. Traditional polymer clay hardens by curing at temperatures created in a typical home oven, generally at 265 to 275°F (129 to 135°C), for 15 minutes per 1/4" (6 mm) of thickness, and does not shrink or change texture during the process. When properly conditioned and cured, most clays create items that will not break if dropped or normally stressed. Cured pieces may have additional layers or enhancements added and be re-cured with no ill effect. As long as the maximum curing temperature is not exceeded, there is no limit to the number of times a piece can be re-cured. After it has

cured, the clay surface can be left as is, sanded and buffed, or finished with a water-based varnish.

There are many brands of polymer clay and though the brands differ slightly in properties such as plasticity, translucence, curing temperature, and flexibility when cured, most are suited to a variety of applications. Specialty formulations include clay that remains permanently flexible when cured, eraser clay, and colorless and tinted liquid "clays" that can be used as slips, glazes, and adhesives.

Polymer clay is available in many colors. "Special-effect" colors such as translucent, fluorescent, glow-in-the-dark, mica-containing "pearls" and "metallics," and variegated "stone" colors containing contrasting fibers are also available.

Polymer clay can be colored with other media. Paint, ink, colored pencil, chalk, metallic or mica-containing powder, metal leaf and foil, glitter, and embossing powder can be applied to the surface. The same materials also can be mixed in as inclusions; this is often done with translucent clay. When acrylic paint is cured onto the surface, it forms a permanent bond with the surface.

Few tools are essential for use with polymer clay, and these can often be found around the house. The most widely used cutting tools are tissue blades, which are extremely thin and sharp, though craft knives and other blades can be used. A pasta machine is often used to create sheets of uniform thickness, to mix colors, to condition the clay, and to create patterned sheets. A "clay gun" or extruder with interchangeable die plates allows creation of lengths of clay in a variety of uniform sizes and shapes. Most molding and modeling tools used by traditional sculptors are suitable for polymer clay, but artists often create improvised cutting, piercing, molding, and texturing tools from items used in sewing, cooking, woodworking, and paper crafts.