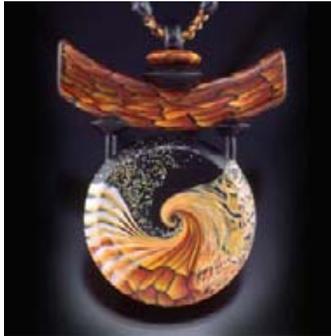


LAURA TIMMINS' POLYMER CLAY PROCESS



Laura Timmins

My love for living things first led me to a degree in biology. Working as a research scientist, I was fascinated by the random yet repeating patterns and the incredible organic forms that distinguish the bodies of plants and animals. My search to understand how life grows is a compelling force in my artwork as well. I am particularly influenced by

my passion for life in the ocean. My early childhood was spent on an island in the Caribbean, and although I now make my home in Wisconsin, I visit and dream of the sea constantly. Oriental architecture also has a strong influence on my work. I find polymer to be an exciting medium with which to express these ideas in a novel and contemporary way.

Many of the processes I use to create these pieces have been invented in my studio, and are unique to my work. Colored and translucent polymer clays are blended and layered together to construct the intricate patterning in each piece. Patterns often contain gold or silver leaf and other inclusions embedded in translucent clay. Thin slices of each pattern are then applied to a base form, creating a rich polymer collage.

The spiraling design seen in many pieces is created by twisting the polymer collage between two glass sheets. The twisted form is then sculpted into its final shape and cured at high temperatures. The cured pieces are sanded and carved to refine the shape. Additional uncured polymer may be added to the cured shape and the pieces re-cured. Texture is often added using hand carved texture plates. Precious metal elements, pearls and other items are often imbedded in the clay. More elaborate pieces may be re-cured many times before they are finished.

