



COLORADO METALSMITHING ASSOCIATION

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CoMA Board

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Message from the Chair

Dear CoMA Members!

Well, the holidays are approaching quickly! Where did August, September, and October go? It might be time to mark your calendars for next year's CoMA conference in Salida - July 20-22, 2012! Board members are busy nailing down the cast of presenters and demonstrators, discussing new ideas and ways to improve things next year, and looking forward to another year of wonderful CoMA events!

Watch your email for the upcoming board election ballot! Richard Sweetman and Joe Korth have resigned this year, so we have had some ambitious people step up and express interest in being on the board! We will ask that this ballot be mailed to the CoMA PO Box for easier record keeping, so please, mail your ballot back to us as soon as you get it via email!

Your CoMA board will be having the yearly 'retreat' in February to hash out the events and planning for the coming year. Remember, this is YOUR organization, and we take comments and feedback seriously, so don't be afraid to email us at www.coloradometalSmiths.org. We want to hear from you! Membership for 2011 was approximately 210 so we are definitely a thriving and expanding organization, loaded with incredible talent! If you have any interest in volunteering to help with special events, including the CoMA conference in Salida in July, please let us know via email! We can also offer more events if we have support from our members so it's a win-win situation!

The second annual Demo Days is being planned and discussed for April 2012! If any of our members are interested in demonstrating a technique, please contact Lori Baer (lori.baer@gmail.com) with a brief description of the technique you would like to demo in a 1-2 hour session. We had approximately 80 people attend the last event, so we are hoping word spreads and more folks take advantage of great artists sharing their knowledge!

Thanks so much and Happy Holidays!!

Lori and Michelene

CoMA Co-Chairs

CoMA's 2nd Annual Denver Botanic Gardens Show

Lexi Erickson

Twenty-five juried CoMA members eagerly anticipated a customer-filled Friday night Opening Gala at our second Denver Botanic Gardens Show on the evening of Oct. 7, 2011. They were not disappointed as buyers, friends and family crowded, and we mean **CROWDED**, into Gates Hall and Gates Courtyard to view the new designs and work of the juried members.

The crowd started arriving shortly before 6:00 p.m. and was steady throughout the night. At times, it was almost too crowded as customers stood three deep at some of the tables before they moved on "en masse" to the next table. Truly, it was an unbelievable evening, and one of the biggest openings in Denver Botanic Gardens history.

Roni Pezoa and Lori Baer ran the Silent Auction, and some of the bidding was fierce. CoMA ended up presenting the Botanic Gardens with a check for \$2,000 thanks to the generosity of both our artists and patrons. The donation was matched by another organization, which made it a very generous gift to the

Gardens' education program. Certainly the customers were in a buying mood, and there was a festive atmosphere throughout.



But, when Saturday dawned snowy and rainy, we knew it would be "one of those days." There were sales throughout the day, but the weather kept people out of the Gardens and away from the show. Sunday was better, with the show pulling in both Garden members and CoMA members.

"Already talks have begun about next year's show," states Lexi Erickson, the Exhibition Chairman for the show. "This year had a lot of hits, and some misses. It's given me a lot to think about."

We want to thank all of our artists for all their hard work. We had several artists approached by galleries, and



to me, that's what it's all about—getting our members' work out there and helping make them successful. We are looking into a number of different ideas, both increasing the number of shows and different venues, for the next few years. If anyone is interested



in being on the Exhibitions Committee, please contact Lexi Erickson at lexi.erickson@mac.com.

Concrete Concepts Jim Cotter Workshop in Review

Holly Stein

Using alternative materials in jewelry isn't a new idea. But using concrete seems counter intuitive and conjures images of ball and chain weightiness. It was fun to discover that it is actually light, offers a variety of surface treatment options and is an alluringly industrious material.

Jim Cotter has been exploring this medium for quite awhile and is a master of its practical use. In a five-hour workshop, Jim showed examples of his work—both in a slide show and with beautiful pieces we could touch and analyze—then took us through the steps to incorporate concrete into our own works.

The work Jim creates and sells in his galleries is beautifully constructed and very arty. He has wonderful lines of contemporary gold and diamond jewelry countered by highly individual pieces with masks and feathers, and then a line of work using concrete.

He began working with alternative materials at a young age, playing with simple tin cans and other common materials to create whimsical, uncommon works of art. His innate humor and intellect is apparent even in the earliest pieces he created as a teenager, playing on his

Midwestern roots and forming a design sensibility that continues to inform his work.

Jim explained the basics of the concrete work: create containment, add water, let sit, embellish. It's really about that simple, but takes some vigilance when creating a

It became apparent pretty quickly—and Jim explained—the applications are endless and you're only limited by your imagination.

Many things can be added into the concrete to create interest and color: glass,

have driven right into a pool of cement. So cool. Other pieces contained bits of steel with rusted patina, embedded glass or stones. Some pieces used the cement as insets, like a brooch constructed of long



mold, adding design elements or findings.

The concrete is actually self-leveling expansion cement used primarily for patching and concrete repair. It's fairly quick setting. With about 15 minutes before it begins to harden, it leaves ample time to texture the surface or add additional elements to the flat surface.

beads, paint, paper, metals, the list is potentially endless. Some of Jim's examples were simple forms poured into molds that were set in traditional bezel settings. Other pieces were set with pieces protruding from the cement, like a super fun ring with a bright red mini Cadillac that appeared to

wood lengths sandwiching tapered cement, a beautiful and elegant application and form.

There are some limitations of construction. Findings need to be sunk within forms as they're cast or the finished

continues

piece needs to be traditionally bezel or prong set. Thought needs to be given before starting on how the piece is constructed. Sometimes the best approach is to work blindly with the finished face of the piece facing down. The final dried piece can be finished on lapidary equipment to attain a high polish. It can be drawn on, painted on, waxed or patinated with shoe polish.

Jim also showed us a cement bowl with lovely fabric textures and raw, irregular edges. The more organic shapes on the edge were created by using cheesecloth as a stabilizing material, creating a free form edge with lots of interest.

This soaked cheesecloth technique is also the basis for creating rings. Using a mandrel or other ring form, the cheesecloth is soaked in the cement and then formed around the mandrel. The rings are rough looking, sometimes mimicking stone, and while they appear heavy, are quite light and comfortable to wear.

With all of this in mind, the participants set off to work on their own ideas. In looking at all of our



efforts, the variety of approaches was astounding. Some people contained the concrete in paper to be peeled away. Some in bottle caps used as preconstructed bezel settings. Still others let the material pool on plastic to be popped off and create free form cement cabochons.

Chain can be incorporated into the poured cement to create finished necklaces as soon as it dries. Lots of materials were embedded in the cement along with pin backs and other findings: stones, glass, wire, beads, organic materials, buttons, cast elements. Every exploration created interesting options as stand alone jewelry or as an element that could be incorporated into something else with traditional fabrication techniques.

Jim and his assistant, Alex Young, helped us all to understand the nature of the material and the construction obstacles. They offered personal help so that each of us understood how our project could best come to fruition. The few hours slipped away quickly, and we came away with a nice understanding that, truly, the possibilities are endless.

CoMA Newsletter Guidelines and Deadlines: Manuscripts, announcements, news releases, black and white photographs, illustrations, information about exhibitions, calls for entries, school programs, workshops, etc., are welcome and will be considered for publication.

Deadlines for submissions will be the first day of February, May, August, and November. You will receive the newsletter about a month later. Email articles and materials to Lori Baer: lori.baer@gmail.com.

CoMA, its staff, director, officers, editors, members, and the CoMA newsletter specifically disclaims any responsibility or liability for damages or injuries as a result of any construction, design, use, manufacture or other activity undertaken as a result of the use or application of information contained in any CoMA article.

Member News

Nancy Blair is one of the winners of the 2011 Designer Jewelry Competition!

Entries came from all over the world, and clearly represented the breadth and depth of contemporary design talent working today.

Please go to the contest website to see Nancy's award/prize level:

<http://contests.designerjewelryshowcase.com>

The competition was judged by three distinguished experts in the field: Alan Revere, Todd Reed and Merle White. Each one has a unique background and a special devotion to jewelry design.

CoMA member and past conference presenter, Tom Herman, is a participant in the International Art Jewelry show in New York City! See page 6 for more details.

Rose Marie Christison of Denver (www.rosiesoriginals.com) and Patsy Oxley of Lamar, CO (www.oxalisjewelart.com) are Visiting Artists, showing their Jewelry at COArt Gallery, 846 Santa Fe Drive, Denver, from November 1, 2011 until December 31, 2011. We would love to have you come to see our things, and enjoy the works of their group.

This Pendant by Rose Marie Christison, made of Sterling Silver, Natural Stone with Lepitolite cabs both on the front and back, was her entry into a Competition at the Southeast Colorado Art Guild in Lamar, CO. It won "Best of Artisan" on October 27, 2011. Rose has been a member of the Guild for about 25 years and has won numerous awards during that time.



What's New at DSMA

We would like to thank all of our students and instructors for such a fun and successful 2011! We are so excited for more in 2012. We are always looking for exciting new workshops, so if you want something we do not currently offer, please email us and we will try and make it happen!

We are in the process of putting together a Design Challenge for March 2012 in an attempt to put a fun spin on fundraising. Details are being fine tuned so stay tuned to our upcoming challenge. Your part is in June when we auction off the artwork at our Open House and donate the money to charity. Our thoughts are that these folks need help year round, and there is no better time than now to help make a difference!

Keep your calendars open for March when David Huang will be teaching Raising, Reposse' & Patinas. David is scheduled to teach March 14 - 18. Pricing TBD.

DSMA students, remember you are always welcome to re-take at no charge (once) any class or workshop you have previously taken, space permitting. Please contact Jenny @ 303-428-3162 for more info. We are the only school in the country that offers this opportunity for students to refine and improve their skills for free!

DSMA has a lot of fun classes scheduled for Winter/Spring 2012 Some include:

Patterned Anticlastic Cuff with Travis Ogden 1/7

Carved Pele Pendant with Deb Hamm 1/13 & 14

Bunches of Bails with Lexi Erickson 1/21

Appliqué Overlay with Lexi Erickson 2/25 & 26

Metal Fusing with Nancy Blair 3/9 & 10

Super Bangles with Kathy Adams 4/6 & 7

Etsy Workshop with Monica Clark 5/4 & 6

Check out our full schedule through May 2012 online at www.metalartschool.com!

Christopher Forbes
Vice Chairman, Forbes

Requests the pleasure of your company
at a reception and private viewing of

INTERNATIONAL ART JEWELRY 1895-1925

Curated by Elyse Zorn Karlin

Wednesday, November 2, 2011
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Forbes Galleries
60 Fifth Avenue at 12th Street
New York City
RSVP: 914-286-7685

The exhibition is on view:
October 29, 2011 – March 17, 2012



Image: Morning Glory Brooch/Pendant, Marcus & CO., American
c. 1900. Plique-à-jour, gold. Siegelson, New York.



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Winter 2012

Winter Classes and Workshops will begin the week of January 9,
2012. Please take a look at the website for the upcoming classes and
workshops. Gift Certificates available for the holidays.
Remember the Navajo Art Walk the first Friday evening of the month –
Free Open Studio for students!

Ornamental Chasing and Repoussé with Valentin Yotkov

**Valentin Yotkov is the 2011 National Metalsmith's
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Winner in the Artist / Arts Educator category.

5 Days – Wed. - March 21, 2011 through Sun.-March 25, 2011



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these techniques in his native Bulgaria, apprenticing with one
of the last masters, and he willingly shares that information
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is limited.** If you are interested please register on line or by
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BURDETT METALSMITHING AND DESIGN CLASS SCHEDULE FOR WINTER 2011-2012

Burdett Metalsmithing and Design is offering Beginning to Intermediate classes* in Blacksmithing as well as fun-focused classes for the metal enthusiast. Come and join us to expand your knowledge in the metal arts and have fun with others learning to work with metal.

Blacksmithing for Beginners, The Sequel

4 Saturdays, 11 am to 5 pm (November 19th, 2011 through December 10th, 2011)

This class will build on the skills learned in the Blacksmithing for Beginners class. Under instruction, students will develop a design from thumbnail, to sketch, to shop drawing. Then begin building. Projects are subject to discussion. Wall mounted coat racks, fireplace tools, and campfire tripods are a good place to start. Students can provide their own materials, or purchase them from Burdett Metalsmithing and Design.

\$360 plus own materials or purchase from Burdett Metalsmithing

Intermediate Blacksmithing

4 Saturdays, 11 am to 5 pm (January 14th, 2012 through February 4th, 2012)

The intermediate class will include a variety of demonstrations on forge welding; stack, fold over, pinch, butt, and drop tongs. Also covered: collars, tube forging, angle iron, slitting and drifting, grinding, and the oxygen acetylene torch. Projects will include shelf brackets, candleholders, and a plant stand. Prior experience in blacksmithing is required. Students can provide their own materials, or purchase them from Burdett Metalsmithing and Design.

\$360 plus own materials or purchase from Burdett Metalsmithing

Forging for the Garden

4 Saturdays, 11 am to 5 pm (February 25th, 2012 through March 17th, 2012)

This class focuses on making decorative and functional iron work for the outdoors. Standing and hanging plant hooks, decorative floral forms, trellises, and gate hinges and latches will be demonstrated. No experience necessary.

\$360 plus \$40 materials fee

Basic Knife Making

4 Saturdays, 11 am to 5 pm (March 31st, 2012 through April 21st, 2012)

Students will explore the fundamentals of blade construction. Starting with a small skinning blade, students will learn to forge high carbon steel, to grind, and to harden and temper. Final polishing, handle construction and leather sheath making also demonstrated.

\$360 plus materials fees from \$50 to \$100 depending on student projects

To register for classes, please call 303-469-0500

*Space is limited. Must be 18 years or older to attend.





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David Huang

Raising, Repoussé & Patinas

March 14 - 18, 2012
Wed. through Sun.



see David's work at <http://davidhuang.org>

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These classes fill up fast.
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\$50 deposit to hold class

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