
An interview with CoMA member, Jennie Milner - March 2021



Tell us about yourself

My name is Jennie Milner, I am the artist behind J.C. Milner Metalworks. I'm a maker in a million ways, from public art murals and installations to sculpture and jewelry.

I graduated from CSU in 1997 with a B.F.A. in Metalsmithing (I was one of the last students of Nilda Getty). I have made jewelry for almost 20 years. I taught at University of Northern Colorado. I travelled around teaching resin workshops for years and have six resin videos with Interweave Press.

What brought you to metalsmithing?

I'm going to be totally honest here, I accidentally found metalsmithing while pursuing my degree in painting. I literally took every art class that CSU offered. I stayed in college for 7 years before the art department realized I could have graduated years prior. I'm a junky for learning skills.

Tell us about your practice

I made jewelry for fifteen years in my home studio. I did wholesale shows, retail shows, and partnered with galleries during those years. After 20 years I was faced with an opportunity to either hire employees, or switch gears. I no longer make jewelry to sell. I'm currently at Artworks Center for Contemporary Art in Loveland with 30 studio mates working on public art and sculpture most days and I spend 1-2 days/week teaching metalsmithing in my garage shop. I love box construction, fusing, texture, etching, stone setting, resin, and reticulation. My ideal student is a beginner, or a recent graduate who needs a skills refresher, or needs introduction to time-saving skills.

What was the most memorable thing you have made?

I made a Brooch called South Pass City, with 14 solder seems and faux grass. On the 14th solder seem I tried and tried to solder the pin back on & the whole thing kept coming apart. I eventually hired Deb Miller to laser weld the pin back on. I felt like I met my match on that one. It was in a show in Milwaukee and went to SNAG in 2019. It's about a ghost mining town in Wyoming with a population of 1.5 near where I grew up.



South Pass City 2018, Sterling silver, faux grass, steel, acrylic, resin



What are some fun facts about you and your work?

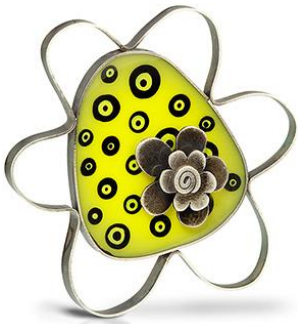
1. I love texture! I love etching steel. I love silver and the endless possibilities with the rolling mill and reticulation.
2. My favorite thing to do with new students is melt silver scrap. It's so satisfying.
3. My favorite tool is my flower punch that I had made. There's no punch like it.

Why are you a member of CoMA and what do you get out of it?

I have been a CoMA member since 1997. I am a past president (and it's possible I did every other job on the board too, except treasurer). There are no similar organizations out there for artists. Painters do not skill share nearly as much as metalsmiths do. This is a very special organization to be a part of.



Where can we find your work?



I'm happy to say there are no retail shows coming up. Haha! Covid thwarted my plans to join friends at Arrowmont in 2020 for our Metalsmith Educators Master Retreat. We are waiting to reschedule. I'm happy to paint most days.

My work is in private collections, I own very few pieces. Chemers Gallery in Tustin, CA has what is left to sell. You can find me on Instagram under [JCMilner Artwork](#) and [JCMilner Metalworks](#), or with the hashtags [#JCMILNER](#) and [#JCMILNERMETALWORKS](#). Class descriptions can be found at <http://www.jcmilnermetalworks.com/new-items-for-sale/metalsmithing-class>

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