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Quarterly Newsletter of the SOCIETY FOR MIDWEST METALSMITHS

# FORGING

**May 2010**

P.O. Box 31314 St. Louis, MO 63131 [www.midwest-metalsmiths.org](http://www.midwest-metalsmiths.org)  
[midwestmetalsmiths@gmail.com](mailto:midwestmetalsmiths@gmail.com)

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 22nd Noon Activity: Picnic

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## May Meeting & Picnic

This **Saturday, May 22nd**, is our annual May picnic / meeting. This year's picnic will be at Villa Park in Olivette, Missouri. It is a cute little park set on five acres, and includes pavillions, picnic tables, barbeque grills, restrooms, and playgrounds.

The park is located at 9301 Villa West. Cut and paste the link below to view an illustrated map of the park's location. [http://www.olivettemo.com/parks/parks\\_fac\\_parks.htm](http://www.olivettemo.com/parks/parks_fac_parks.htm)



The weather in Saint Louis on Saturday is supposed to be a picture-perfect 82 degrees. So bring one of your favorite dishes, and enjoy some time in the great outdoors with your fellow SMM members and their families.

**Dayne Sislen** has set up a website where members can post what type of dish they plan to bring to the picnic. Consulting the sign-up sheet will help balance the menu, and keep repeat dishes to a minimum. Go to <http://www2.mysignup.com/cgi-bin/view.cgi?datafile=smpicnicfood> to see the list.

In addition to our usual meeting, we will have a **“show and tell”** for your most recent project. Be ready to talk about your project and share your artistic process.

See you all on Saturday!

## SMM Holiday Show at Third Degree Glass

SMM is pleased to announce our partnership with Third Degree Glass Factory for our first (and hopefully annual) jewelry sale in December 2010.

This **trunk show** will be held in Third Degree's East Gallery, and table space will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. **Don't wait to sign up**; the call for entries was sent out not only to our membership, but to numerous arts groups in the region. You can download a registration form for a table at this premiere event by going to the SMM website: <http://www.midwest-metalsmiths.org/events.html>  
**Entry deadline is May 30th 2010.**

Please send your check and completed form to the show chair:

**Ellen Klamon**  
795 Brownell Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63122

If you have additional questions regarding the show, please contact Ellen by phone at 314.821.5060 or by e-mail at [ellen@ellenklamon.com](mailto:ellen@ellenklamon.com)

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**When:** Saturday, December 11th from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. & Sunday, December 12th from Noon - 4 p.m.  
Opening reception Saturday evening with an open bar, and music by Ken Domash.

**Where:** Third Degree Glass Factory  
5200 Delmar Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63108

**Eligibility:** Entry is open to any member of Society for Midwest Metalsmiths, or any regional metalsmith or jewelry artist who joins.

**Fee:** For Current members: \$75.00 which includes the booth fee, 3'x6' table, and table covering.  
For New members: \$100.00 which includes the booth fee, 3'x6' table, table covering, and discount membership in SMM for 2010.

If you have never visited Third Degree Glass, take a minute and tour their building virtually at [www.thirddegreeglassfactory.com/](http://www.thirddegreeglassfactory.com/) They have a lovely, contemporary space with a strong community following.

# Noel Yovovich - Coloring Titanium

## The Lecture

Over the weekend of May 7th, SMM welcomed artist Noel Yovovich for her coloring titanium workshop. The weekend began with a lecture on Friday evening where she showed slides of her work, and discussed her career in the arts.

Noel earned a Bachelor of Arts - Fine Art from the University of Chicago, and has been pursuing art professionally ever since. She did not begin her career in metals, but was a potter for 20 years, and also an illustrator for a couple of years before turning her attention to metal and jewelry. Her work is characterized by rich color and precise attention to detail, a trait she says she inherited from her father, an engineer and artist.

Noel draws her inspiration from her childhood spent in rural Florida. The distinct landscape and her unusual neighbors helped shape her perspective, and her approach to art.

She works in a variety of metals including gold, silver, bi-metal (silver/copper), copper, brass, titanium, and occasionally precious metal clay. She likes her work to have a dimensional look which she accomplishes by layering various solid and pierced pieces using spacers to separate the layers.

Noel earns her living solely through her art. She received two artists-in-residence grants for 2010. One on Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands just north of Seattle, WA, and the other at The Ragdale Foundation in Lake Forest, IL. She teaches workshops at Bead and Button and BeadFest; and she was a finalist for the Saul Bell award in 2009. Noel's work was also featured in the January issue of *ArtJewelry Magazine*.



-Linda Lankford

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## The Workshop

Noel began her workshop with a brief discussion of titanium, how it functions, how it differs from niobium, and a little bit about the coloring process. Despite the charts and research, Noel believes that coloring titanium is more of an art than a science. Most of the time, a certain voltage will produce a certain color however, happy accidents happen often. And what worked one day, may not necessarily work the next. It is important for the artist to embrace the precision that is possible with anodizing, but also allow for the unexpected.



## Noel Yovovich Workshop (cont.)



There are two ways to color titanium: heat, which is very fast and uneven; and electric current, which produces more consistent and controlled coloring. The photo above shows the box which produces the current, and the bath where the coloring takes place. The dial on the box controls the amount of current that the metal receives.

Noel uses masking tape to control which parts of the metal get colored at a given time, and depending on the piece, the masking and removing process takes patience and time.

Noel buys most of her equipment from Reactive Metals. If you would like to learn more about coloring titanium or niobium, their website is a great place to start. They carry books, supplies, metal, and anodizers to get you started in coloring metal.

Titanium is extremely stiff and hard to form, so the majority of projects will be flat. So in terms of setting it into a piece of jewelry or sculpture, Noel thinks of colored titanium like a precious stone. You'll want to feature the titanium with a strong yet complimentary setting that does not overpower the colored metal.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Noel had a substantial, detailed handout for everyone to take home. No doubt this will come in handy as a reference tool for any future work in titanium.

SMM thanks Noel for bringing her talent and enthusiasm to St. Louis for her coloring titanium workshop.



## Member News

- **Dayne Sislen** wants to remind everyone that the **entry deadline for MetallInclinations2 is June 30th**. This is an all jewelry exhibition, and pieces can be sold before or during the show. SMM does not take a percentage of those sales. Let SMM do your promotion and marketing for you. We will be promoting this show and the artists selected in major metalsmithing magazines and on-line venues. Go to <http://smm-metallinclinations.org/enter.htm> for a prospectus.
- **Kathryn Bowman** will be teaching at the Bead & Button show in Milwaukee June 9th, 11th, 12th, and 13th. All classes are on etching metal with ferric chloride. She also has an article on Embellished Plum Blossom Beads in the August issue of *Bead and Button Magazine*.



- **Howard Siegel** and **Nancy Brickner** have been selected to co-teach ten chain making workshops and classes at the June 2010 Bead and Button Show in Milwaukee, WI.
- **Howard Siegel** will be teaching two week-long classes in advanced chain making the weeks of May 17th and 24th at the William Holland School in Young Harris, GA.
- **Deborah Daher** currently has a solo show at **Adam Foster** Fine Art Jewelry on Central Ave. in Clayton, MO. The show runs through May 30th.



photos by Eve Daher Paradowski

- **Roger Rimel** and **Janet Scherrer** showed their work May 6th at James Durbin Jewelry Design in Kirkwood in conjunction with the shop's Gem and Colored Stone Show.

## Bench Tips

### DISSOLVING LIVER OF SULPHUR

When making a liver of sulfur solution for darkening sterling silver, try placing the large rocks in a jar with some hot water and then hold in a running ultrasonic cleaner. Watch the liver of sulfur dissolve with no effort crushing pieces or staining your clothes. This also serves as a good demonstration for students and retail personelle as to why one should not put fingers in an ultrasonic cleaner! -Kevin Duris

### ALTERNATIVE FILE HANDLE

As an alternative to using standard wooden or plastic file handles, epoxy round wooden beads over the sharp palm end of the file. They come in different sizes and colors. Now you can choke up on the file and gain more control without poking or cutting up your palm or wrist. -Dan Connelly

### PREVENTING STUCK FLUX LIDS

When you are finished using your soldering paste flux, simply grab some petroleum jelly and a paper towel and lightly wipe down the rings on the screw top lid and jar. The next time you need to open the jar, you'll have an easier time of it. This trick works on most jars containing sticky materials. -Lori McKinney



The Society for Midwest Metalsmiths is an organization established to promote, educate and encourage metalsmiths, silversmiths and goldsmiths. Complete Minutes from the meetings are posted to the web site.  
[www.midwest-metalsmiths.org](http://www.midwest-metalsmiths.org)

#### MEMBER CATAGORIES:

Regular.....	\$30
Dual.....	\$40
(Family, same address)	
Student (with i.d.).....	\$20
Silver Level.....	\$75
Gold Level.....	\$100
Platinum Level.....	\$150

#### Annual Membership Dues payable by:

**Jan. 1 Delinquent after Jan. 31**

For membership info.  
e-mail Lee Richards  
[lee.richards@charter.net](mailto:lee.richards@charter.net)

#### Next Meeting Date:

**Saturday May 22nd 2010, Noon. Villa Park, Olivette**  
**Activity: Picnic**

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Janet Lewis**  
**Allison Norfleet Bruenger**



## SUBSTANTIAL EXHIBITION DONATIONS MADE BY



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