



# FORGING

January 2012

Next Meeting: Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> 2012, Noon, Maryville University. Activity: Wire Wrapping Demo

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## Jewelry to the 3rd Degree

by Kathryn Bowman

The participating SMM members pulled off a **fabulous event** on November 18th & 19th with Jewelry to the 3rd Degree. The jewelry was awesome and diverse, the members were punctual and helpful, and Third Degree Glass Factory was a great venue for us. Friday night was their Third Friday event, so the evening was quite lively; with Ken Domash on guitar, and good crowds throughout the night. Saturday was a bit more subdued, but we still had a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. In all, we believe this show was a success.

Thanks to the hard work of **Ellen Klamon** and her committee, things came off without a hitch. And many thanks to **SMM members** who managed to break down their booths in a mere 45 minutes.

SMM is currently scouting locations for a **new venue** for the 2012 show. Third Degree Glass has made the decision to discontinue this type of event (art fairs and shows) in favor of weddings and banquets. Ellen and her committee are searching for a venue that will better suit our needs in the long term. If you have any suggestions or ideas regarding a space, or you would like to join the committee, please **contact Ellen Klamon** at [ellen@ellenklamon.com](mailto:ellen@ellenklamon.com). SMM would like to make this show a yearly tradition that the public can look forward to, so establishing a permanent venue is important. Ellen and her committee will get together in January to begin work on this year's sale.

**Thanks again** to everyone who helped make this show a success.





# Artist Interview - Mindy Mass



## **Are you originally from the St. Louis area?**

Yes. I grew up in St. Louis

## **When and why did your interest in metals begin?**

In 2009 I took a beaded necklace to a local jeweler's shop to be fixed, and they sent me to Lady Bug Beads. A woman at the shop said that it was very easy to fix, and that she could fix it for me for a cost, or she could show me how to fix it myself for free. I opted for the latter, and I have been obsessed with jewelry making ever since.

I then took several classes at Lady Bug Beads. The class "Your Art as a Business" with Heidi Sever got me started with selling my work. Later that same year, in May, I took wire wrapping and basic metalwork classes from Kathy Craddock at Glasshopper Studio, and I have been hooked ever since. I often joke that my beading addiction led me to the "harder stuff."

## **Do you have a degree in art, or an art related field?**

I have a Bachelor of Science in science. Since I am new to jewelry making, I am obsessed with learning everything. I have taken workshops through SMM and Craft Alliance, watched instructional DVDs, read books, and discovered new things on my own through trial and error. I feel like a sponge, and I want to absorb everything and anything jewelry related.

## **What was the first metals piece that you ever made?**

The first piece I made was a silver, pierced pendant.

**Have you had teaching experience in the arts, or in an art related field?**

I started teaching friends some basic wire wrapping techniques. And now I am teaching a wire wrapping class at Lady Bug Beads.

**Who are some of the people/artists, or things/places that have inspired your work the most?**

Nothing in particular. I am inspired by anything and everything.

**What is your creative process?**

My day job is working in IT. I like to think I am very organized, and a logical thinker. I am definitely a rule follower. For me, creating something new was very difficult because there weren't any rules to follow.

So I started by making copies of pieces I saw in magazines and books, so that I could focus on learning the techniques. Then I started breaking the rules by simply changing the color combinations, or by changing the placement of elements in a piece.

As I've purchased more materials and learned more techniques, the creative process has become even more overwhelming because now I have so many choices. It is important for me to stay focused, so sometimes I will limit myself to a few elements, and play with them until I come up with a design I like. Then I will plan out what steps I need to take in order to make the piece. Other times I will draw in my journal. My process is different every time.

**Have you participated in any shows or exhibitions? Has any of your work been published?**

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in the 2010 & 2011 "Jewelry to the Third Degree," and sell my work at Salon St. Louis on Grand Avenue. Also, I was published in the Summer 2011 edition of *Studio Magazine*.

**Do you focus on a particular style of jewelry?**

No. I can honestly say that I haven't yet found my artistic voice. I make collages from magazines of jewelry pieces that I like. Then I make notes of what I like and don't like. I am starting to see a bit of a theme, and I hope that over time I will develop my own style.

**What are your goals with respect to your art?**

My goals are to have fun, open myself more to the creative process, connect with and share information, develop my own style, and continue to teach.

**What do you enjoy most about working with metal?**

The idea that you can take a straight piece of wire or a flat sheet of metal and turn it into 3-D pieces of jewelry just blows me away. I continue to experiment and learn something new every time I work. I love the possibilities that are available to form, texture, and color metal.

**What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment in the arts?**

Teaching and sharing what I know with others.

**In what direction are you currently taking your work?**

Lately, I have been creating pieces using cold connections.

## **Where do you see your work in the next few years?**

I love reticulated silver and pearls, and I would like to incorporate more of that into my work.

## **Lessons I've learned as a metalsmithing "newbie."**

Art is very personal: What I like, someone else may not. I try to focus on the things I love, and the rest will follow.

Use what I purchase: When I buy something new I make the commitment to use the tool, or make something with the material. By practicing and experimenting with the new item I am better able to get a feel for it.

Purchase the best: I buy the best equipment I can afford. I bought a Dremel, hand piece, and accessories in 2009, and recently a new Flexshaft. In hindsight, I should have bought the Flexshaft originally. It runs much smoother, and I like that I can change the direction.

Practice, practice, practice: After I take a class, I make a piece using that new technique as soon as I can. Not only does this reinforce what I learned, but it also improves my skill.

Get involved: I met Kathryn Bowman at a Lady Bug Bead class, and she invited me to attend an SMM general meeting. Since that meeting, I have had the opportunity to be on the SMM board as secretary, and on the workshop committee. I have also made a wonderful friend, Lori Baer, from my involvement with the Colorado Metalsmithing Association. The art world is a small community, and you'll soon find that you keep bumping into the same people at different venues and events.

Just ask: We are fortunate to have a wealth of resources and knowledge in the St. Louis area. Don't be afraid to use them. Everyone I have met has been very supportive and open about sharing information.

Stay focused: In December, I set my goals for the coming year, and when that "bright shiny thing" pulls my attention away from my goals, I really take the time to think about if that thing will bring me closer to my goals or not.

Keep journals: I keep two journals, a technical one and an inspirational one. In the first journal, I record which techniques I used, the materials I used, the order of steps to complete the piece, and the time I spent making it. In the inspirational journal I keep pictures of pieces that I like, ideas for my business, color swatches, ideas for new designs, and inspirational quotes.

**SMM thanks Mindy** for taking the time to be interviewed for the January newsletter. The artist interview is a great way to get to know fellow members (especially when members are spread out all over the greater metropolitan area and state). It is not uncommon to sit next to a member at a meeting or event and never find out that you share a common interest or goal. I hope you enjoyed getting to know our outgoing secretary, Mindy Mass.

# Education & General Information

- Spaces still remain for **SMM's first workshop**, Photographing Jewelry with a Digital Point and Shoot Camera. In order to keep the class size small, the sessions have been divided into two separate dates. Please visit the SMM website for more details. [www.midwest-metalsmiths.org/workshops.html](http://www.midwest-metalsmiths.org/workshops.html)
  - Sign up now for **Maintaining an Etsy Shop** with **Kathryn Bowman**. This workshop meets on Saturday, February 25th from 9-5. During this workshop Kathryn will discuss how to set up and maintain your shop. Additional details are available on the SMM website.
  - For a full list of SMM workshops scheduled for the 2012 season, keep checking the workshop page of the SMM website. More details will be posted as soon as they are available.
  - The **Greater St. Louis Art Association** will present a workshop with art marketer Bruce Baker on April 14th & 15th. This class is designed to give artists the tools to create better businesses in tough economic times by building brands and increasing sales. For complete information visit <http://gslaa.org/> and click on the right sidebar.
  - The **Contenti Jewelry** website has an excellent **resource library** covering topics such as weights and measurement conversions, choosing the right saw blade, hammers and their uses, choosing the right bur, and so on. To view the full list go to [www.contenti.com](http://www.contenti.com) and click on resources.
  - Now is the time to think about **learning a new skill**, or improving an existing one. In addition to local resources like SMM and Craft Alliance, various fine craft schools have posted their workshops for 2012; Haystack Mountain, Penland, Arrowmont, The Metal Museum, The Revere Academy, and Tennessee Tech. Please see their respective websites for more details.
  - If you are a blacksmith, or are interested in learning more about blacksmithing, the Memphis Metal Museum will host **Forging on the River** March 30th—April 4th. To read more and to fill out an application go to <http://www.metalmuseum.org/store/c/14-Forging-on-the-River.aspx>
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- **CaFE is an online resource** to help artists find calls, apply to shows, and manage multiple entries. To learn more about this organization visit <https://www.callforentry.org/index.php> for details.
  - Crafthaus has an article about **comparing mobile credit card readers** such as SquareUp and GoPayment. The article highlights the pros and cons of each system. <http://jeffreypoehlmann.hubpages.com/Mobile-Credit-Card-Processing-Options-Tablet-and-Smart-Phone-Solutions-from-Square-Intuit-GoPayment-and-PhoneSwipe>
  - **Dayne** would like to remind members that there are now **10 tutorials available to view** on the SMM website. Some are PDF files and others are links. Simply visit the SMM website and click on “tutorials” located in the far, left column.
  - **Don't forget** to use your Schnucks scrip card when you buy groceries, or use the click-through buttons for Amazon, GoDaddy, Small Parts, etc. located on the SMM homepage. Each click generates a small income for SMM which, over time, generates substantial funds. If you are aware of other **ways to passively generate funds** please contact SMM through the group e-mail [midwestmetalsmiths@gmail.org](mailto:midwestmetalsmiths@gmail.org)

# Calls & Opportunities

- **Lark books** seeks images to publish in a **juried collection of handcrafted lights**. Juried by Christopher Poehlmann, owner of CP lighting, an internationally regarded company producing handcrafted, decorative light fixtures for over 20 years. *500 Lights* will be published in spring 2013. Entries must be postmarked by March 1st 2012. For more details and an application go to <http://www.larkcrafts.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/500-Lights-Call-for-Entries.pdf>
- The **American Jewelry Design Council's annual New Talent Contest** announces its call for applicants. The winner will be awarded a booth in the New Designer Gallery at the July Jewelers of America Show in NYC. Applicants must be a designer/owner of a jewelry business, produce in the U.S., and have never exhibited at a JA show. Deadline for submission is February 10th. For an application contact Marylouise Lugosch at [mlugosh@roadrunner.com](mailto:mlugosh@roadrunner.com) or Alan Revere at [alan@revereacademy.com](mailto:alan@revereacademy.com)
- **SNAG** seeks entries for "**Hot Under the Collar: A Survey of Contemporary Necklaces.**" This show will run concurrently with the 2012 SNAG conference at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. The jurors are Bob Ebendorf and Amy Tavern. More information is available on the SNAG website [www.snag.org](http://www.snag.org)
- The 25th Annual **Washington Craft Show**, sponsored by Craft America, seeks entries for their show November 16th—18th 2012. This is a multimedia crafts exhibition and sale focusing on contemporary American craft. This is an excellent opportunity for fine craft artists to exhibit their work in a national show with a strong audience base. Visit [www.craftamericashows.com/WASH\\_events.htm](http://www.craftamericashows.com/WASH_events.htm) for complete details.
- The 28th Annual **American Craft Exposition** seeks applicants for their show in Evanston, IL August 24th—26th 2012. Application deadline is March 16th 2012. Visit [www.juriedartservices.com](http://www.juriedartservices.com) for a complete listing.
- The 36th Annual **Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show**, a juried exhibition and retail sale, will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center from November 8th—11th 2012. The application deadline is April 1st and the application fee is \$50. Please visit their website for full details [www.pmacraftshow.org](http://www.pmacraftshow.org)
- Only ten days remain to apply for the **Craft Alliance Artist in Residency Program**. The postmark deadline for all materials and fees is January 23rd 2012. To view the complete application go to <http://www.craftalliance.org/grand/air.htm>
- The University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee has posted a **job opening** in their jewelry and metalsmithing department. Responsibilities include running the metalsmithing area, providing technical support, assisting with development of programs and facilities, and working collaboratively with staff and students. Persons interested in this position must apply through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Employment site <http://jobs.uwm.edu>
- **Ann Arbor's South University Art Fair 2012** is currently accepting applications for their annual fair July 18th—21st. The application deadline is January 27th and the application fee is \$50. Please visit [www.juriedartservices.com](http://www.juriedartservices.com) for complete details.

# Member News

- If you haven't already **renewed your SMM membership**, now is the time. With the addition of a PayPal button on the SMM website, signing up couldn't be easier. Click on the link <http://www.midwest-metalsmiths.org/membership.html> to either join or renew.
- The **first meeting of the year is Saturday January 14th** at noon. During this meeting we will have a drawing for three \$100 workshop certificates (to be eligible you must have paid your dues by January 1st). We will also elect 4 officers to the board, and afterwards Lee Richards will give a wire wrapping demonstration. We hope to see you there.
- **Kay Adams** would like everyone to know that the west end of Crestwood Mall (where the Art Coop is located) will close at the end of February. Plans to remodel are tentatively scheduled for summer 2012. Kay may move her work to the Chesterfield Artropolis. Please contact Kay directly for details.
- **Jessica Erickson** invites everyone to her exhibition, "A Time of My Own," in the Morton J. May Foundation Gallery at Maryville University. Her new work was developed in the past few months after receiving a month sabbatical to research enameling, and attending a one week workshop with Barbara Minor at Arrowmont School of Crafts in 2011. Featured in this exhibit is "161," a special project supporting Joplin Tornado Relief Efforts. An evening reception is on January 19th from 5-7 p.m., and an artist lecture will take place on February 2nd at 11:30 a.m. in the gallery. The exhibit runs from January 17th—February 4th.



- **Genevieve Flynn** of Genevieve Flynn Studio Kansas City has recently posted on her website workshops that she will host at her studio in 2012. Classes include instruction in silversmithing, chasing and repousse, bowl raising, and forging mokume gane rings. Complete class descriptions are available on her website [www.genevieveflynn.com](http://www.genevieveflynn.com)
- SMM sends its sincere condolences to **Barbara Otterson and her family** on the loss of her husband, Jim Gooderum. The memorial service is at Grace Church (Maryland Heights) January 13th at noon.
- As always, if you have **any news** regarding upcoming or past shows, awards or events that you would like to have included in the newsletter; or you would like to contribute an article on a metals topic, please contact **Elizabeth Wood** at [ej1699@prodigy.net](mailto:ej1699@prodigy.net)

## 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 SMM website [www.midwestmetalsmiths.org](http://www.midwestmetalsmiths.org)

Annual Membership Dues payable by January 1st (delinquent after January 31st). Contact Lee Richards [lee-richards@att.net](mailto:lee-richards@att.net) for more details.

### MEMBER CATEGORIES:

Regular . . . . .	\$30
Dual (family, same address) . . . . .	\$40
Student (with ID) . . . . .	\$20
Silver Level . . . . .	\$75
Gold Level . . . . .	\$150

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## Welcome New Members

- Monica Aschenbrenner
- Mary Bauinstein
- Tim Duban
- Joe Ferri
- Genevieve Flynn
- Rachel Kranzberg Miller
- Tanya Shewchuk
- Susan Breen Silvy
- Alison Warren
- Julie Workman

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