

Curator's Essay
MASTERY IN JEWELRY & METALS: IRRESISTIBLE OFFERINGS!

WHAT is Mastery?

The pursuit and attainment, achievement of purpose, knowledge, sustained accomplishment and excellence. The creation of irrepressible, important studio jewelry and significant metal work: unique, expressive, often remarkable, wearable objects, hand wrought vessels which address utilitarian purpose and tactile enticement, distinctive, arresting sculptural forms, unforgettable, temporary and permanent public installations- all of which have challenged, consecutively seduced and retained as indelible memory, from the creativity in this community.

Founded in 1969, SNAG has brought together makers of singular, individual, personal goals, values and commitment to the field- a tribe of unique and collective imagination, of passion for their exploratory works - and then spotlighted their presence and production, creating attention by avid audiences eager for those unexpected challenges.

Individuality within the diverse and unexpected possibilities. Appreciation for historic and ceremonial precedents. Next dialogues within the continuum of traditions and craft history. Evolving or revolutionary ideas. Subtle or overt actions. Elegant or whimsical outcomes. Pushing or leaping over limits. Respect and absorption of the knowledge and experience of precedents. Generous sharing of individual discoveries; teaching and dialogue in and out of the studio and academic communities.

Addressing the body: ears, chest, fingers, neck, shoulders, wrist. The domestic scene as stage- function identified, utility as task and ritual objects as design inspiration. The dialogue of unending possibilities for sculptural forms. The intrigue of complex ideas for temporary and permanent installations. Metals, enamel, stones, clay, glass, mosaics, wood, mixed and repurposed materials. Annealed, anodized, assembled, beaded, built, carved, cast, collected, constructed, crafted, designed, enameled, folded, formed, fused, gilt, inlaid, knitted, mokume-gane, molded, oxidized, printed, raised, set, smithed, snipped, stitched, technology, woven.

What IS Mastery?

A singular idea, a function, a symbol becomes a concept, a series, a marker- a recognizable visual attitude and identifiable vocabulary which grows into an observation, a continuum, an unforgettable commentary. Risk taking. Alone and juxtaposed....so many ideas inviting exploration.

Contrasting moods and attitudes, stimuli and emotional temperatures. Subtle or bold. Serene or exuberant. Pithy observations of the natural and manmade worlds. The languages of beauty, aesthetics and art. Observation and commentary. Values and conscience. Excess and dearth, appreciation and awareness. Heavy moods and childlike insouciance. Wisdom and wit. Humor and critique. Reality and fantasy. Figuration and abstraction. Reality and Symbolism. Icons. Life. Contradictory content, questions and narratives. Style, color and decoration. Embrace of technology. Social issues and political platforms. The continuum of traditional craft palettes; the unexpected as new media. Choices.

What is MASTERY?

Larger provocations identified, striven for and met, refinements, working rhythms, sequential self-challenges proceeding onward. New more daring goals. Individual evolutions building presence, prowess and virtuosity. The attainment of a visual ease and grace, while narratives and vocabularies build, blossom and become part of craft history.

Those well-known and acknowledged. Their works visually and actually well-travelled, exhibited, documented. They are artists, jewelers, metalsmiths, craftspeople who have vigorous, prolific studio practices while they are experienced, generous and inspiring educators. They are identified nationally and internationally, working, teaching, influencing the individual and collective story of SNAG at 50.

Continuing purposeful pursuit, identifiable feats of technical challenge, intention, achievement and prowess. Sequential evolution, radical new paths of exploration and experimentation. Seemingly inexhaustible ideas, unanticipated diversions and production. New Roads. New risk taking. Authentic and recognizable. Successful and ever-surprising. Virtuosity. Refinement. Sustained passion. Celebration of the human experience. Evidently joyous roads well travelled and self-determined accomplishments met and exceeded.

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Gail M. Brown, Curator

Participating Artists:

Julia Barello	Mary Lee Hu
Harriete Estel Berman	Michael Jerry
Elizabeth Brim	Robin Kranitzky & Kim Overstreet
Doug Bucci	Rebecca Laskin
Kathy Buszkiewicz	Keith Lewis
Harlan W. Butt	Charles Lewton-Brain
Sharon Church	Linda MacNeil
Chunghi Choo	John Marshall
John Cogswell	Bruce Metcalf
Chris Darway	Eleanor Moty
Jack daSilva	Tom Muir
Marilyn daSilva	Harold O'Connor
Robert Ebendorf	Komelia Okim
Sandra Enterline	Albert Paley
Fred Fenster	Beverly Penn
Arline Fisch	Suzan Rezac
Pat Flynn	Stephen Saracino
David C. Freda	Hiroko Sato-Pijanowski
Don Friedlich	Sondra Sherman
John G. Garrett	Helen Shirk
Lisa Gralnick	Lin Stanionis
Gary S. Griffin	Billie Theide
Laurie Hall	Rachelle Thiewes
Susan H. Hamlet	Linda Threadgill
Douglas Harling	