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 irrepresible, 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.

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.


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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
Arlene Fisch                                      Suzan Rezac
Pat Flynn                                         Stephen Saracino
David C. Freda                                    Hiroko Sato-Pajanowski
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