Educators/Educated: Jewelry & Metals in Ohio

November 18, 2004 - January 23, 2005

Gail M. Brown, Curator of Contemporary Craft

Ohio Arts Council’s RIFFE GALLERY
Educators/Educated: Jewelry & Metals in Ohio presents a visual introduction to a vibrant community joined experientially by the chosen materials and geographically by academic connections. It is abundantly evident that metal, with its inherent challenges and rewards, its processes and history, attracts passionate, personal exploration by artists. The Ohio metals community and its work are truly deserving of an investigation that celebrates generations of vital artists, seminal objects and processes. This exhibition presents a golden opportunity for a focused, if brief, view of work created between 1955 and 2004. I was invited by Kathleen Browne, jeweler and Kent State University professor, and the Ohio Arts Council to examine work by metalsmiths associated with six highly regarded, degree-granting jewelry and metals programs in the state, and to bring together a selection of their inspired objects and ideas.

The significant contributions of Ohio metalsmiths and jewelers validate highlighting this community. Browne asked current faculty, each a practicing metalsmith, at the institutions to provide a wish list of former faculty and selected alumni to be invited to participate. The exhibition is supported by generous collectors, faculty and alumni, many of whom speak avidly about their school experiences and the lasting influences of their former professors.

Most inspiring to me was encountering the breadth of creative ideas and highly personal forms from the elegant to the quirky, from the historic continuum to the new and the socially conscious. This enabled the creation of a meaningful exhibition imbued with those consistently sought characteristics: considerable individuality, distinctive exploration and material prowess. The strengths of contemporary Ohio metals and jewelry artists, collectively, reaffirm the vibrant heritage and ongoing creative vitality of the craft.

Each academic institution shares a well-articulated mission. They all place emphasis on the individual’s development as an artist and as a craftsperson. They stress exposure to the breadth of contributions and possibilities in the field. The programs include physical, conceptual and technical challenges. Consistently, the artists/faculty inspire by word and creative example, the seeking of one’s own visual voice and the ongoing development of a personal vocabulary. This bears out in viewing the work over time.

The artists clearly demonstrate their own uniqueness - in taking ingenious challenges, artfully scaling limitations and exceeding original expectations. The work reflects a wealth of personalities, creative imperatives and identifiable visual markers. What truly shines is the individuality, sensitivity and personal hallmark of each maker - the love of creating by telling one’s personal story within the language of metal. The work serves to introduce and inspire continued examination of each artist’s vision.

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Following the Riffe Gallery exhibition, Educators/Educated Travels to the Butler Institute of American Art - Salem Campus (February 19 – May 29, 2002) and the Cleveland Institute of Art (June 24 – July 29, 2000).

ARTISTS

Sue Amendola Jaclyn Davidson
Diane A. Archer Helen Elliott
Pamela Argentieri Chuck Evans
Jane D. Benjamin Susan R. Ewing
Christina Balz Brandow Kathleen Browne
Kenneth Bates Gretchen Goss
Jane D. Benjamin Elissa R. Grall
Kathy Buszkiewicz Harold Hasselschwert
Catherine Butler Jan Haverer
Jessica Calderwood Betty Headl
Sofia Calderwood Julie Flaran
d
Susan Lovell Campbell Matthew Holliern
Katy Bergman Cassell Lauralee Huston
Cynthia Cetin Amanda Butler Kolar
Danielle Crissman Robin Kraft
Vicki D'Antino Amy Kreiling
Donna D'Aquino Tom Muir
Marielyn daSilva Joe Wood

ROY
Stephen Saracino
Mary Ann Scherr
Sherry Simms
Susan Stoecklen
Mel Someroski
Tara Stenhoun
Felicia Szorad
Kathy Kay Taylor
Rachel Thiebes
Pamela Morris Thormod
Julia Turner
Heather White
Edward Winter
Joe Wood
Helen Y. Worall
Stephen Yusko
Educators/Educated:
Jewelry & Metals in Ohio

Public Opening Reception
Thursday, November 18, 2004
5 - 7 p.m.

Exhibition Tour with Gail M. Brown, Curator of Contemporary Craft
Friday, November 19, 2004
12 - 1 p.m.
Curator Gail M. Brown will highlight the significant contributions made by Ohio’s metalsmiths and jewelers as she leads a tour of the exhibition. Brown will discuss the creative process behind the work chosen for this celebration of the state’s vibrant metals community.

Adult Workshop: Chain Link Bracelets with CCAD faculty member Kelly Malec-Kosak
Thursday, December 2, 2004, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Explore the art of chain making with Educator/Educated artist Kelly Malec-Kosak. Participants will learn several styles of chain making and create their own bracelet in sterling silver. For adult beginners and more experienced jewelry makers. $10 materials fee. Space is limited to 15.

Call 614/728-2239 for reservations.

Copper Etching Workshop with Columbus artist Stephanie Sypsa
Sunday, December 12, 2004, 2 - 4 p.m.
Join artist Stephanie Sypsa as she shares her skills and knowledge of the historic tradition of metal engraving. You’ll create a one of a kind piece of copper jewelry incorporating your own concept, design and assembly. Open to children age 10 and older with an adult companion. Materials are provided.

Call 614/728-2239 for reservations.

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RIFFE GALLERY

87 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614/444-9624
TTY/TTD use
Ohio Relay Service
1-800-750-0750
www.riffegallery.org

GALLERY HOURS
Tu 10-4
W-Th 10-8
Sat 12-8
Sun 12-4
Closed Mondays
State holidays
Free Admission

FRONT: Joe Wood, Gepeto Silver, 2003, silver electroplated, 2.25" x 2.5" x 1.5"
BACK: Julie Fariyali, Long Ohio Floating Bracelet, 2003, silver, cord, 1.25" x 7" x 1.5"