

METALS

The Fine Arts Center

Monday-Friday 9:15-11:05 am or 1:15-3:05 pm

Instructor: Katy Bergman Cassell

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PURPOSE: The purpose of this course is to introduce skills used in metalworking to enable exploration of metal as a medium for artistic expression. Emphasis will be placed on increasing the student's ability to solve problems, design as well as technical, and evaluation will focus on the relationship between form, subject matter, and craftsmanship. The class will view examples of professional and historical metalwork with the intent of expanding the student's awareness of what has been done in metals and its relationship to other art forms. The student will be introduced to techniques such as forming, cold connecting, soldering, surface embellishment, wire working, patinas, and enameling. Accommodations will be made for students who wish to continue beyond the introductory level, making it possible for them to work at an advanced or honors level in 3D Metals. The instructional program will then be designed to fit the individual needs of the student.

TEXT: *The Complete Metalsmith* by Tim McCreight

ATTENDANCE is mandatory and expected. To be successful in this class, students need to be present ON TIME every day, PREPARED with the proper materials. There is a tardy policy in place that requires students to make up time after school for the time missed from class. Students may be tardy twice without penalty, however, after that, a note will be sent home and the time must be made up time after school. The attendance regulations require students to be present 85 days this semester to receive credit for this course, therefore students may miss only 5 days to eligible for credit; more than 5 absences may result in a failure of the class. To be eligible to make up work after 5 days, a doctor's or administrator's note will be required. Work missed during an absence must be made up within 5 school days. After this time, a zero will be recorded as the grade. *If a student is late or absent from class, it is the student's responsibility to get copies of any notes or assignments.*

GRADES: Grades will be based on concept, resolution of design/technical problems and craftsmanship of metals projects. Students must complete samples of all processes demonstrated and at least two large metals projects per semester for evaluation, in addition to written tests and portfolio review. Grades will be based on the following:

- Successful completion of finished metals projects on time
- Acquired skill in metals techniques and appropriate craftsmanship
- Research, sketches, plans, designs, intention, creativity
- Participation and articulation in critiques, safe studio use

A 93-100

B 85-92

C 77-84

D 70-76

F 63-69 (weighted for GPA calculations)

F 0-62 (no credit for GPA calculations)

SKETCHBOOK: Each student is required to maintain a sketchbook that will contain sketches, working drawings/designs, revisions, and final drawings, ideas, class notes, and research.

COMMUNICATION with parents concerning students' progress in the class will occur through report cards, quarterly Fine Arts Center Newsletter, and by email or phone if necessary (a log

is kept). A parent conference may be scheduled at my or a parent's request.

COURSE CONTENT

The following subject areas will be covered in this class:

- Design for metalsmithing and enameling through drawings and models
 - the elements and principles of design will be incorporated
 - creation of thematic content, vision, or subject matter within the artwork
- Fabrication of sheet metal and wire
 - surface embellishing through etching, embossing, stamping
 - simple forming with a hammer
 - making links and cold-connecting metal
 - soldering metal
- Surface color on the metal
 - safe use of patinas
 - fusing glass to metal: enameling

STUDENT OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, I expect that each student will have:

1. thought critically about and successfully discussed their work and the artwork of their peers, using appropriate art/design vocabulary
2. created understandable drawings and models of their designs
3. kept a sketchbook of ideas, initial, revised, and final designs, and notes on techniques, materials, and processes discussed in class
4. created samples of every process discussed in class
5. created at least two fascinating pieces of metal art that demonstrate a successful combination of form, subject matter, and craftsmanship

STUDIO: It is important that we maintain a safe and productive studio atmosphere. Please return tools and equipment to their proper place and clean area when you are finished working. If you wish to use a tool that is unfamiliar to you please ask the instructor for a brief demonstration. This will help you avoid replacing or refinishing the tools you have misused. Help others to use tools correctly or refer them to the instructor. Metals Studio Rules:

- Only students currently enrolled in a metals class may use the studio and tools. All others must have permission from me.
- Students must dress appropriately for this class: closed-toe shoes, natural-material clothing that protects your body. Long hair must be pulled back, no long fingernails.
- Safety glasses, dust masks, rubber gloves and earplugs must worn during certain activities, such as etching, polishing, hammering.
- Torches and kilns are to be used only for metalworking. No food, wax, clay, or any other material may be fired in the kilns. Turn on vents.
- Students must concentrate fully on what they are doing with metal. iPods, phones, etc must be turned off during this studio class.
- No food or drinks other than water in the studio.

SUPPLY LIST

A set of hand tools will accompany each student's bench, and the student will be responsible for the upkeep of these tools during the semester. A student will be billed for missing or damaged tools at the end of the semester. In addition, please bring: sketchbook, small jars or film canisters, a hand towel, pencils, sharpie markers, slide film, plastic slide sheet.