

METALS Honors Level
The Fine Arts Center
Monday-Friday 9:15-11:05 am or 1:30-3:20 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, while 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 level with an instructional program tailored to the individual needs of the student.

TEXT: *The Complete Metalsmith* by Tim McCreight ; other sources as assigned.

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. The tardy policy in place 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 per 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.*

COMMUNICATION with parents concerning students' progress in the class will occur through report cards, the 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.

GRADES: Grades will be based on concept, creativity, originality (avoidance of the trite, mundane, and cliché), 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, research projects, assigned readings, and sketchbook reviews. Grades will be based on the following: the averaged grades of completed metals projects, vocabulary quizzes, one presentation, research and writing projects, and sketchbook average. Class participation, attendance, and effort will work to the students' advantage.

The final semester grade will be 40% First Quarter Grade, 40% Second Quarter Grade, and 20% Final Exam, which will be the average of the semester's sketchbook grades.

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, HOMEWORK, and FINAL EXAM: Each student is required to fill a sketchbook *outside of class time* with initial idea thumbnails (10 or more), revisions of selected designs (5 or more), final drawings (orthogonal views), and color studies (2 or more) for each assigned project, in addition to class notes and research and writing projects. It will be collected and graded regularly, *the average of which will become the student's final exam grade*. Personal pages of sketches, writing, and/or "collecting," must be done beyond assignments to earn an A.

COURSE CONTENT:

- 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, safely
 - surface embellishing through etching, embossing, stamping
 - simple forming with a hammer and stakes
 - soldering metal sheet and wire, as well as linking and riveting
- Surface color on the metal
 - safe use of patinas
 - fusing glass to metal: enameling

The Visual Arts Department is implementing a Visiting Artist Program funded by the Braitmeyer Foundation, coordinated around the theme of "Recycling in Art." Therefore, metals class will include projects incorporating found materials, in the manner of Boris Bally, visiting metalsmith.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

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

1. thought critically about and successfully critiqued their work and the artwork of their peers, using appropriate art/design and metals technical vocabulary
2. created understandable drawings and models of their designs
3. kept a sketchbook of ideas: initial, revised, and final designs; with notes on demonstrated techniques, materials, and processes; and personal and assigned research and drawings
4. created at least two fascinating pieces of metal art that demonstrate a successful combination of form, subject matter, and craftsmanship
5. created at least one piece of metal art that incorporates recycled or found materials
6. successfully researched assigned topics, their own ideas, and metals history
7. presented to the class one presentation about an historical or contemporary approach to the metals field
8. absorbed assigned readings for thoughtful class discussion
9. practiced safe studio and tool use, and material conservation
10. exhibited at least one metal art piece in a gallery exhibition

SUPPLIES and TOOLS: Nearly all materials will be supplied by the instructor for this class; however, each student is expected to come prepared each day with their sketchbook of ideas. 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 may check out a textbook, other Metals studio book, or tools with the instructor's permission and after filling out the sign-out sheet. Each student is responsible for their missing or damaged tools or checked-out items and will be billed for replacement value.