



IMPORTANT DATES

- 9/17** September CMAG meeting: Space of Our Own/ Creative Inspiration Roundtable
- 10/15** October CMAG meeting: Cloisonné Enameling
- 11/19** November CMAG meeting: Keum Boo; Design Challenge due
- 2/22** Makers Business Symposium 2020

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SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION(S)

Our September meeting will be split in two – first, a presentation by Madeleine Moore (Vice President and Chair of the Space of Our Own committee) with a group discussion of where we stand on the Space project. The presentation will explain a location opportunity we’ve been offered but would need to move on quickly, along with three other possible paths the project could take, after which we’ll ask for a membership vote (vote will be taken online in the week following the meeting). It will also outline the resources we need to continue forward with any Space of Our Own options, and how you can help.

The second half of our September meeting will be a Creative Inspiration Roundtable (led by Rachel Morris) – a conversation about how to kick start your creativity and get past designers’ blocks. This will include some exercises to inspire work on designs that you’re struggling with or develop ideas into collections.

Feel free to bring a few pieces from a collection that you are struggling with or a piece or set you want to develop into a collection. It’s also recommended that you bring a sketch book and pencil(s).

OCTOBER MEETING: Cloisonné Enameling Demonstration with CMAG member Alison Fine, whose work is heavily influenced by Byzantine enamels and Celtic and Scandinavian jewelry. (<http://www.fineartisanry.com/>)

NOVEMBER MEETING: Keum Boo demo (24k gold on silver) by Rachel Morris (<http://eclecticnaturejewelry.com/>), with the option to work on your own project during the session (see Keum Boo article in August’s newsletter).

DECEMBER MEETING: There’s no monthly meeting, but instead will have a nice get-together (pot-luck hors d’oeuvres and desserts). We’re looking for a host – do you have a home or studio you’d be willing to open up to 15-30ish guests for a few hours one evening in December? (We’re flexible with dates.) Let us know – email guild@cmaguild.org.

ART IN THE PEARL SUCCESS!

Thanks so much to our CMAG members who came out to demo at Art in the Pearl! We had gorgeous weather, beautiful art, and lots of people interested in metalworking. It’s great to see CMAG encouraging metal arts out in public, and we’re hoping to see a few new faces some future meetings. If you’re interested in volunteering to help CMAG, keep an eye on our calendar and consider joining one of our committees. Thanks again to our volunteers!

SAVE THE DATE: MAKERS BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM 2020

The Symposium Committee has met and settled on February 22-23, 2020, for our next Makers Business Symposium. We have confirmed availability at the Multnomah Arts Center again, and are in the planning stages for presenters. We’re also trying to get other guilds involved so this year includes even more topics that encompass all media.

The schedule will be roughly the same as last year, with a few minor adjustments per our attendees’ recommendations.

If you are interested in helping to plan the event or have a proposal for a presentation that fits into an hour and 45 minute slot, or have a speaker you think we should ask, please let us know at cmagsymposium@googlegroups.com.

SILVER SOLDERING TIPS & TRICKS by Rachel Morris

Soldering is one of the staples of fabrication work, but it's usually taught only in the context of a given task, rather than as an art form unto itself. Many jewelers learn one or perhaps two techniques early on, and use them for the majority of their work...this is great practice until you hit a soldering task for which your technique doesn't work well.

Most of us started with only one type of solder, too – either wire or sheet, but rarely both – and unless you've taken a filigree class, it's unlikely you've used a powdered or paste solder. Based on the solder form we started with, we may have learned to use tiny chips of sheet (called "pallions") or small snippets of wire. Some instructors go "old school" and insist on using nothing but hard solder (or worse, IT solder, which is so close to silver melt temps that it sets new jewelers up for failure).

Regardless of the format of the solder, my preference is to work down from Hard to Medium to Easy ("EZ") and to try to avoid using Extra EZ if at all possible, and to try very hard to avoid using the EZ where it will show (it's great for putting on earring posts, for example). If you have more than three joins in your project, this may mean planning out your soldering order of operations a bit – i.e., you can put any two pieces together with hard, then those sets of two pieces together with medium, etc. The reason to use the hardest solder you can is that its color properties are closer to natural silver – EZ, and especially Extra EZ, end up with yellowish seam lines showing when you polish.

As you become more skilled at soldering, you'll learn better torch control and may be able to use multiple rounds of each level of solder without melting out your prior joins.

Of the many methods for soldering, some of the most common are:

CHIP OR WIRE SNIPPET SOLDERING – flux then place pieces with tweezers, then heat and flow. **Benefit:** You get good, precise placement of your solder. **Cons:** Lots of picking up and putting down the torch between steps, so it can be slower than other approaches. Takes time to get used to the right amount of solder for your seams.

PICK SOLDERING – picking up a bit of solder on the end of a (usually titanium or steel) pick with a bit of flux on the end and with the torch helping heat/glue it in place, then touching it down to the right spot while transferring the torch heat over. Many people ball the solder up on the pick before positioning. **Benefit:** Super speedy, especially when

soldering a lot of pieces in a row, such as chain links. **Con:** It takes a LONG time to get a steady, precise hand landing the balls of solder where you want them.

STICK SOLDERING – Taking a length of wire solder and feeding it into the flame along a seam.

Benefit: Great for filling in long solder stretches in bulk, or cheating gaps by filling them with solder.

Con: Solder by the gallon – there is nothing subtle or delicate about this approach, as it floods the work. Not recommended for exteriors and/or delicate patterned areas.

SWEAT SOLDERING – this is the exercise in which you start to flow your solder onto one half of a pair of pieces being joined, but not TOO flowed (I like to stop between ball and full flow, so a bit of a lumpy blob), then position the other piece and re-heat to full flow. **Benefit:** It allows you to control where your solder is placed in a join, and also can be used as an indicator of full flow (sweat solder the back of a bezel then flip it to position on top of a ring – watch as you re-flow and the bezel will "sigh" downward as it flows and settles). **Cons:** Hard to get a handle on the flow-reflow cycle. Work sometimes wants to slide on the second flow.

For all the above techniques, put down a layer of your chosen flux at the join surface, then heat 'til free of moisture, then put down a second layer while hot (should dry right away) and/or flux your solder bits. The second flux acts as a glue to hold things in place. Do NOT position solder in wet flux – as soon as you heat it, it will bounce the pieces around as it bubbles.

If you're like me and use a water-based flux, such as HandiFlux paste, do NOT coat the whole piece – you're simply begging for fire scale and fire stain, since water holds oxygen which bonds to the metal. If you want to do a full coating to avoid the copper stains, use a Pripss flux or do a borax/alcohol double coating.

Also in all cases, the same rule applies: Solder. Follows. The. Heat. Not "Solder follows the torch" – solder flows where the metal is hottest.

(cont'd) ▶▶▶



<https://www.riogrande.com/product/silver-chip-solders/101201gp>



<https://www.riogrande.com/product/titanium-soldering-pick-set-3/503019>



<https://www.riogrande.com/product/tix-solder-sticks-20-pack/504095>



Madeleine Moore

SILVER SOLDERING TIPS & TRICKS (cont.)

GOOD PRACTICE ACTIVITIES FOR EACH STYLE:

Chip/wire soldering practice: Almost any solder joint can be done with chip or wire soldering – just set up your work, flux, heat, position solder, and go. I also like to use wire or chip underneath a seam – I put it down on a brick and sit one end of my bezel's seam on top of the chip, then heat to draw the flow upward. This also lets me see the settling of the bezel as the solder flows.

Pick soldering: Chain making, chain making, chain making! Start with a heavy gauge chain and practice moving your links with the pick, positioning one seam at a time out front, then pick soldering the seam and moving on to the next without stopping. Great practice for speed and positioning. Then move on to a lighter gauge chain (say, 20g or lighter) that starts with large links in the middle and works out to gradually smaller and smaller ones. Doing as many links as you can in one sitting will radically up your soldering awareness game, and it's ok if you have to go back and touch some up after doing your first pass.

Stick Soldering: This is best for boxes or other larger, heavier work, such as a big bezel. The trick is to get your metal to temperature before touching down the wire (and be sure to use a long enough length to keep from burning yourself, or hold it in insulated cross-locking tweezers). Flux is an indicator of temperature – as it goes to the glassy clear (sometimes reddish due to copper) state, that's moments before it's hot enough to flow solder on your metal – don't bring your wire into the flame until you see that, then touch it down and draw it along your seam with the heat.

Sweat Soldering: Practice putting premade bezels onto basic wire rings (solder on the back of the bezel, flip, then position onto ring OR solder on back of bezel, flip the ring band upside down, and position into the solder point). You'll get a ton of cute stacking rings out of the process, too.

Want to get bolder? Make a bunch of small post earrings all at once. I use up my patterned scrap, cut out some fun little shapes, put a little doming into them, and then tack on posts. You could also just put posts on pre-made bezels for the practice. Posts add a skill to your soldering work, in that you'll need to hold a post at the ready in tweezers to set down into the as-it's-flowing solder. The order of operations is: Flux earring back, heat, position solder snippets, flow partially while holding the post in tweezers at the ready but not in the heat, then, as solder flows, touch the post down into the flow (still heating). Next, remove the heat but keep holding the post in place, then once it cools from liquid, remove the tweezers.

Of these techniques, the two that will elevate your control more than any others are the earring posting and chain making ones.

Happy soldering!

(cont'd on p5) ►►►

REGIONAL HAPPENINGS THIS FALL

PORTLAND JEWELRY SYMPOSIUM

September 29th & 30th, 2019

<https://portlandjewelrysymposium.com>

Topics Include:

- Jewelry Forensics
- Inlay Techniques
- Metallurgy for Jewelers
- Techniques for Contemporary Metals
- Legal Considerations for Custom Design
- Wear Characteristics of Platinum Jewelry
- New Life for Your CAD Models in Zbrush™

29th INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE CONFERENCE: THE MULTIFACETED MAKER

October 12-15

The International Sculpture Center will travel to Portland, OR, bringing together a diverse audience to discuss the influence and impact of contemporary sculpture, and its potential for cultural influx.

MAKING SPACE EXHIBITION

A 4-day exhibit that coincides with the ISC conference at Portland Art Museum. ArtReach Gallery is across the street from the Museum and will be open each day during the conference. Show dates are October 12-15 with a reception Saturday, October 12 from 1-4pm. Open to the public.

PORTLAND OPEN STUDIOS

October 12, 13, 19, 20

<https://portlandopenstudios.com>

WASHINGTON COUNTY OPEN STUDIOS

October 19 & 20

<https://www.washcoart.org>

SITKA ART INVITATIONAL

November 2 & 3

<https://www.sitkacenter.org/event/sitka-art-invitational>

Columbia-Willamette Faceters Guild's 44th
Gemstone + Jewelry
Fundraising Auction
Saturday, November 2, 2019
5:00 PM PREVIEW 6:00 PM AUCTION **OMSI Auditorium**
1945 SE WATER AVE
\$10 ENTRY, CREDITED TOWARD AUCTION PURCHASE. HORS D'OEUVRES. NO HOST BAR.
Visit <https://facetersguild.com/auction> for more information.

UPCOMING SHOWS w/ CMAG MEMBERS

CORVALLIS FALL FESTIVAL

September 28 & 29

<https://www.corvallisfallfestival.org/>

Ashley May Heitzman, Vincent LaRochelle, Rachel Morris

LOCAL 14 – October 4-6

<https://www.local14.org/2019-artists/>

Shelly Durica-Laiche, Carli Schultz, Robbie Curnow, Christina Fowler-Thias, Marie-Helene Rake, Tai Vautier, Deb Steele, Leslie Zemenek

CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS MARKET

November 1-3

<http://craftsource.net/>

Rachel Morris

BEST OF THE NORTHWEST

November 8-10

<https://nwartalliance.org/event/31st-annual-best-of-the-northwest-show-fall-2019/>

Rachel Morris, others TBA

WILD ARTS FESTIVAL – November 23-24

Ashley May Heitzman, Marie-Helene Rake, Deb Steele, Tai Vautier

SATURDAY MARKET (ongoing)

Marty Hogan, Barbara Covey, Ashley May Heitzman

CALL FOR EVENT DATES

We need to update the calendar for the rest of this year and into next. Please let us know what shows and metals-related events you know of in the region, including dates, website addresses, and location of the event. If it's a show with an application date, please let us know that deadline and application site, too. This list should include gallery showings, museum events of interest to our members, craft shows, conferences, etc.. Submit them to guild@cmaguild.org for addition to the website Calendar (<https://cmaguild.org/event-calendar/#!calendar>).

SILVER SOLDERING TIPS & TRICKS (cont. from p3)

SOME THINGS I WISH I'D LEARNED EARLIER ON IN MY SOLDERING CAREER:

- You CAN flow solder more than once (more with the easier solders than the hard) – however, each time it flows, some of the non-silver component (usually zinc and/or copper in some blend) burns out. If you've ever found yourself with a divot at a seam in your ring band after you solder on a bezel, that's what you're seeing. To work around this, be sure to leave filing until the last moment you can reach the seam...this leaves a bit of excess solder to re-flow if you overheat the piece, avoiding that divot.
- As a result of the burnout, if you get incomplete flow and need to go back in to do more soldering, add a tiny bit of fresh solder to the mix to help get it flowing again.
- Sterling silver flows at a lower temperature than fine silver, but fine silver gets a skim coat to it that looks a lot like solder flowing – when starting out, I find students see the flow of solder more clearly on sterling than fine silver.
- "IT", "Hard", "Medium", "Easy" and "Extra Easy" are relative terms by manufacturer – if you buy from more than one company, you may see slight variances in their melt points – not a bad thing, if you do work with a lot of solder joints, as it gives you a tiny edge. The name simply indicates the proximity to the flow temperature of silver itself – IT being closest, Extra EZ being farthest away.
- If you're working on pieces to enamel, be sure to get zinc-free eutectic solder – this holds enamel more consistently.
- Soldering a bezel down to a back plate? Try solder on the inside line, not the outside, and put it a fingernail's width from the wall...too close and the wall heats up faster and sucks the solder up. That tiny hair's width lets it flow underneath instead.
- Working on a step bezel? File the inner loop's top edge at an angle, down towards what will become the inner joined seam. This creates a channel for your solder to flow in, leaving a nice clean step, instead of a solder-filled curve.
- Don't have any sheet solder, but do have wire? Hammer it on a steel block or roll it in the mill – voila! Sheet solder.
- If you can, do most of your torch work with your OFF hand – leave your dominant hand to hold things, do delicate pick work, and so on, giving you more control where you need it.
- Technically, we precious metalsmiths are not soldering – we're "brazing"!

SAFETY NOTE:

- Silver solder used to be made with Cadmium in it – now, in the US, at least, it needs to be declared and is rarely in anything but the lowest temperature solders (plus some states ban its use altogether, as does the UK). When Cadmium burns off, it's fairly toxic. This means if you have a tendency to buy up lots from jewelers' estate sales, you may want to think twice about using older solder – it may be better to turn in as scrap.



Sharon Smith and Bob Woods demoing at Portland Mini Maker Faire.

BRILLIANT: ARTISTS MAKING STATEMENTS

by Leslie Zemenek

I just signed on to be the curator for the special exhibit at the 2020 Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts. It will be showcasing art jewelry that conveys a specific statement on culture, history, place, etc. The title of the show is "Brilliant: Artists Making Statements." The call for the show will be available November 1st at <https://www.lakewood-center.org>.

In addition to myself there is an exhibition designer and we both report to the Festival Coordinator. I'm looking for a group of volunteers who might be interested in helping put together this exciting exhibit and working as docents during the festival and the Patron Preview fashion show. It's a great opportunity to learn about jurying, exhibition design, etc. as well as getting to know the people who put on this important local art show

If you're interested or want more information, please email me at leslie@lesliezemenek.com or call or text at 503-381-7451.

PODCAST REC: METALSMITH BENCHTALK

<https://www.blogtalkradio.com/whaleystudios>

Enjoy over six years of archived episodes of Metalsmith Benchtalk. The show is hosted by Master Goldsmith Jay Whaley, owner of Whaley Studios, and co-hosted and technically produced by his student, Ashley Elizabeth Kendrick, (Aly). Whaley Studios is all things jewelry and the art of metalsmithing. Artists in the craft discuss, educate, problem solve and entertain callers while considering topics of interest in the metalsmithing and jewelry making trades. Find many familiar names in the listings: Bill Fretz, Sydney Lynch, Todd Reed, Alan Revere...

CALLS FOR ENTRY

GOLDSMITH '20

The first SNAG exhibition, Goldsmith '70, was held in 1970. Choose an artist from the original exhibition, or one of their pieces, to influence your own creation. Entries may be an image of the finished piece or a drawing of the piece you plan to make.

Deadline is this coming Monday, September 16, 2019.

<https://www.snagmetalsmith.org/exhibitions/goldsmith-20/>



SAUL BELL DESIGN AWARD **20th**
RECOGNIZING DISTINCTION IN JEWELRY DESIGN **ANNIVERSARY**

THE SAUL BELL DESIGN AWARD COMPETITION – RECOGNIZING DISTINCTION IN JEWELRY DESIGN

By every measure of what makes a great teacher, Saul Bell was an incredible teacher, going above and beyond to help jewelers learn and perfect their craft. Through this competition – now celebrating 20 years of innovative designers – Rio Grande honors the giving spirit, boundless generosity, and wealth of knowledge of its founder, Saul Bell, and carries on the legacy he left.

This competition honors the spirit of Saul Bell and his life's work. Through its first 20 years, and now into the future, it is our goal that his influence will continue to inspire and enlighten jewelers everywhere. Its array of awards, prizes and special benefits helps support jewelry artists as they move along their chosen career paths.

THE CATEGORIES:

JEWELRY COLLECTION (Couture/Fine & Fashion/Bridge)

GOLD/PLATINUM

HOLLOWWARE/ART OBJECTS

ENAMEL

SILVER/ARGENTIUM® SILVER

ALTERNATIVE METALS/MATERIALS

EMERGING JEWELRY ARTIST – 22 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER

EMERGING JEWELRY ARTIST – 18 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER

<http://www.saulbellaward.com>

26TH ANNUAL BENEFIT: RAGS JURIED SHOW AND SALE OF WEARABLE ART

The YWCA RAGS Guild announces a call for entries for its 26th annual juried Wearable Art Show and Sale. The RAGS 2020 event will take place March 12–15, 2020 at Mercedes-Benz of Tacoma. Open to all artists working in all media of wearable art – garments, fashion accessories, and jewelry. Gallery or Marketplace.

www.RAGSWearableArt.org

CMAG BOARD & STAFF FY2020

Executive Board:

President: Rachel Morris
Treasurer: Barbara Covey
Vice President: Madeleine Moore
Secretary: Anne Johnson

General Board & Staff:

Member-At-Large: Marsha Sandman
Director of Education: Serin Hale
Communications Chair/Social Media: Heather Munion
Web Site: Bob Woods
Spring Show: Tai Vautier
Programs Director: Sharon Smith
Librarian: Kristin Fudalla
Refreshments: Marcy Swanson
Newsletter Editor: Heather John
Space of Our Own Committee: Madeleine Moore (Chair), Carolyn McDonald, Abbie Gross, Marsha Sandman
Symposium Committee: Donna Yutzy, Sarah Burr Arnold, Madeleine Moore (Chair), Thomas Tietze

Open Roles

Membership Chair (Board role)
New Members Orientation (reports to Membership Chair)
Class Registrar (reports to Education)

GUILD BUSINESS

GENERAL MEETING (MONTHLY)

When: General CMAG member meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month, except December. Doors open at 6:45 pm, meetings begin at 7:00 pm, and adjourn by 9:15, out by 9:30 sharp.

Where: Room 30 at the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219

What: Meetings consist of general business and a short break with refreshments, followed by a program which may be a demonstration of a technique or tool, a slide presentation, a panel discussion, or other presentation of interest to CMAG members. The CMAG Library is open before the meeting and during the break for checking out books and magazines.

Who: Meetings are open to CMAG members and their guests.

BOARD MEETING

Board meetings are generally held prior to the General Meeting at 5:30 pm in Room 30 at the MAC (same room as the regular meeting). Members are encouraged to attend and contribute.

CONTACT INFO

Creative Metal Arts Guild (CMAG)
PO Box 8946, Portland, OR 97207

Email: guild@cmaguild.org

Web: cmaguild.org

NEWSLETTER CALL TO ACTION

We're looking for news about you! Your shows, gallery openings, tools or books you love, event reviews, workshops you've attended or upcoming classes you recommend. And photos of new work you'd like to show fellow CMAG members. Include body text in an email with any links, and attach photos (ideally jpeg format) where available.

Submit to: news@cmaguild.org

Upcoming deadlines (2nd Tuesday of each month): October Issue: 10/8/19, November Issue: 11/12/19, December Issue: 12/10/19

WAYS TO PROMOTE CMAG, OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS

GENERAL:

Talk us up among your artist friends – invite them to a Third Tuesday meeting!

Update your member page on the website with photos, especially!

Like our public Facebook page and Like, Comment on and Share announcements on your own page and on groups you think would appreciate them

<https://www.facebook.com/CreativeMetalArtsGuild/>

Follow us on Instagram, like (double tap) our posts and tag us @creativemetalartsguild in your own appropriate posts

<https://www.instagram.com/creativemetalartsguild/>

Use hashtags in your social media posts

#CMAG

#creativemetalartsguild

#creativemetalartsguildpdx