



May 2022

CMAG Members: April Ottey, Kerin Dimeler-Laurence, Valerie Graham

## IMPORTANT DATES

**5/17, 7pm**

May CMAG meeting:  
Multnomah Arts Center

**6/21, 7pm**

June CMAG meeting:  
Multnomah Arts Center

**7/19, 7pm**

July CMAG meeting:  
Multnomah Arts Center

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 May Presentation:  
Columbia Gem House
- 2 Abstracta Display Review  
by Madeleine Moore
- 3 Board Elections  
Upcoming Show Deadlines
- 4 CMAG Info

## May Presentation: Columbia Gem House

Eric Braunwart founded Columbia Gem House in 1976, when he was just 25 years old. A trip to Madagascar in 2000 prompted him to begin researching and writing the world's Fair Trade Gems Principles and Protocols, which Columbia Gem House still uses today. The company's vision is to create a world where responsibly sourced gems are the rule, not the exception. Join us at MAC on May 17 to learn more about the business!



## Review: Abstracta Display by Madeleine Moore

### Bowed, Bent, but Unbroken

After the glass of my IKEA display cabinet spontaneously shattered after two years in storage (storage under my bed, and I was jerked awake by the sudden crack), I decided it was time to invest in a more professional setup. There seemed to be three popular options: Pro Panel, Dynamic Display Systems, and Abstracta. Abstracta won me over for price and style, and I opted for two custom units with clips for the glass and plywood panels that I bought separately. I have to give the company credit for customer service – every reply to my emails was quick, courteous and detailed, and my order was dispatched within the provided lead time

Abstracta units are built out of various lengths of metal tubing connected with polymer Cubitz® connectors. The structure is assembled with the help of a nylon hammer and disassembled with the help of a heavy metal half-cylinder and brute force.



The company needs to work on its manufacturing consistency: the longer tubes attached to the Cubitz connectors as they should with a few sharp taps of the hammer, but the openings of the shorter tubes were so narrow that only strong hammering could pound them onto the connectors. They are impossible to remove, even using the official disassembly tool, and must now be regarded as permanently attached. A few tube ends are wide enough that the connectors slide right out.

The tubes also don't attach at perfect right angles, yet the glass panel measurements provided by Abstracta allow for nothing less than perfection. I had to push some of the tubes a few millimeters out on the connectors in order to provide room for the longest panels. Reader, take note: whatever size panel Abstracta recommends for its units, consider ordering a sixteenth inch shorter on length and width.

The panel clips fit so tightly on the tubes that they cannot be removed without the help of a tool – Abstracta shows a peculiar flat thing being used in one of its instruction videos, but does not sell the peculiar flat thing in question. I made do with a paint can opener with its end ground down for smoothness. It still scratches the paint, and my display units started looking like they'd done a season's worth of shows before they'd even been taken to their first.

The display cases look nice enough once fully set up, but the process takes hours. I suspect that Pro Panel and Dynamic Display are much simpler to use, and I suspect that's why they're more expensive. I can't exactly recommend Abstracta, but I can't give an entirely negative verdict without familiarity with the competition. If anyone wants to compare their experience with craft show displays, please reach out to the newsletter at [newsletter@cmaguild.org](mailto:newsletter@cmaguild.org).

(Editor's note: I have experienced the same issues - and great customer service - as Madeleine, with the additional problem of several of the connectors shearing apart at what is clearly the 'seam' of a two-part casting mold.)



## Board Elections

June marks our annual general meeting and board elections. Any member can nominate themselves or someone else to a role during the meeting, though it's best to notify the Nominating Committee in advance. A simple yea/nay vote is then held for the board roles. We have several empty positions to fill, the most important of which are Vice President and Education Chair. The position of Vice President is required by our bylaws. In addition to handling meetings when the President is absent, the Vice President can serve as a project incubator to launch new projects or complete short-term tasks. The Education Chair is needed to run in-person classes and workshops, which in the past have included multi-day workshops by Jayne Redman and Charles Lewton-Brain. This is a valuable service for CMAG to provide to its members, but it can't continue unless we have someone to reach out to potential instructors and coordinate their visits to Portland. If you can't commit to monthly board meetings, there are also several staff positions available relating to programming, social media, and refreshments. Please contact Anne Johnson, CMAG Secretary and Chair of the Nominating Committee, with any questions.

## Upcoming Show Deadlines

Camano Island Summer Solstice Art Festival  
Event Dates: 6/24/22 - 6/26/22  
Deadline: 5/17/22

Bend Summer Festival  
Event Dates: 7/8/22 - 7/10/22  
Deadline: 6/24/22

Summer Arts Festival - Roseburg, OR  
Event Dates: 6/24/22 - 6/26/22  
Deadline: 6/1/22

Bend Fall Festival  
Event Dates: 9/30/22 - 10/2/22  
Deadline: 9/9/22

Wild Arts Festival  
Event Dates: 12/10/22 - 12/11/22  
Deadline: 6/12/22

Visit [zapplication.org](https://zapplication.org) for more information



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## CMAG Board & Staff FY2021

### Executive Board:

President: Madeleine Moore  
Treasurer: Barbara Covey  
Vice President: **POSITION OPEN**  
Secretary: Anne Johnson

### General Board & Staff:

Member-At-Large: Marsha Sandman  
Director of Education: **POSITION OPEN**  
Communications Chair/Social Media: Madeleine Moore  
Web Site: Bob Woods  
Spring Show: Tai Vautier  
Programs Director: Madeleine Moore  
Librarian: Kristin Fudalla  
Refreshments: Marcy Swanson  
Newsletter Editor: Jen McCaw  
Membership Chair: Carli Schultz

### Open Role:

Class Registrar (reports to Education)

## GUILD BUSINESS

### GENERAL MEETING (MONTHLY)

When: General CMAG member meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month.  
Meetings begin at 7:00 pm, and adjourn by 9:15

Where: Multnomah Arts Center

What: Meetings consist of general business 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.

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

### BOARD MEETING

Board meetings are held prior to the General Meeting at 6:00 pm. Members are encouraged to attend and contribute.

## CONTACT INFO

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

Email: [guild@cmaguild.org](mailto:guild@cmaguild.org)

Web: [cmaguild.org](http://cmaguild.org)

## NEWSLETTER ITEMS WANTED

We're looking for news about you and from you! Virtual trunk shows, tools you can't live without, books you love, online workshops or webinars 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](mailto:news@cmaguild.org)

Upcoming deadlines:  
June issue: 6/13/22

## WAYS TO PROMOTE CMAG, OUR MEMBERS, & EVENTS

### GENERAL:

Talk us up among your artist friends - invite them to a Third Tuesday meeting! Update your membership 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 our posts and tag us @creativemetalartsguild in your own appropriate posts  
<https://www.instagram.com/creativemetalartsguild/>

Use hashtags in your social media posts:

#creativemetalartsguild  
#creativemetalartsguildpdx