

May June 2011



GOLD

from the ancient cemetery site of Sitio Conte

MASSC Field Trip

Saturday, May 22nd, 11:00 AM.

241 South Anaheim Blvd in Anaheim, CA (at the corner of Anaheim Blvd and Broadway).

MASSC special discount price \$11.50 per person (on line at www.massconline.com) sign up deadline May 16th

A special MASSC field trip is planned for May to visit the new GOLD Exhibition at the MUZEO in Anaheim. The exhibit, which has been appraised at over \$4.8 million, includes large embossed plaques, nose ornaments, intricate necklaces and effigy pendants- as well as polychrome ceramics, and objects made of precious stones, whale-tooth ivory, and bone. GOLD features beautiful pieces of work unearthed during the Penn Museums 1940 excavations of the ancient burial site at Sitio Conte, located about 100 miles west of Panama City. In ad-



**sign up for the field trip online:
www.massconline.com**

dition to displaying these remarkable artifacts GOLD will take you back to the way of life in which these pieces were constructed, as well as demonstrate the adversities the Penn Museum excavators faced during the dramatic dig.

The excavation site, referred to as The River Of Gold ... was named for the large number of artifacts that washed ashore during a great flood in 1927 causing the Rio Grande de Colé to change its course right over the hidden burial ground of an ancient warrior chief and his loyal subjects. According to the exhibitions curator

Presidents Message

One of my favorite things about belonging to MASSC is the networking opportunities that come with membership in an arts organization. At every event I attend, I hear members sharing information with others. Whether it's about a great new tool they've fallen in love with, a supplier that is off the beaten path, Information on a venue where someone is selling their creations, or discussions on the latest workshops they've taken or will be teaching, MASSC members are great at networking and sharing their knowledge. Do you take advantage of the digital networking opportunities



that MASSC offers? MASSC has a Facebook page as well as a Yahoo group that has almost 500 members and is moderated (no spam). The MASSC Yahoo group is where you will find opportunities that arise for members between publications of the newsletter. If there are open spaces available in a workshop, you'll find it posted in the Yahoo Group. The Yahoo Group is also a great place for networking. You will find links to join both the MASSC Facebook page and the MASSC Yahoo Group on the front page of the MASSC website.

<http://www.massconline.com/>

Ketarah Shaffer

Many thanks to our sponsors for their donations.

Look for the items listed here to be raffled off at future MASSC events including Demo Day in the Fall.

- A medium domed stake, 4 pancake dies and 3 silhouette dies from Potter USA.
www.potterusa.com
- An engraved hammer from NC Black
www.ncblack.com
- 3" Titanium/Aluminum saw frame from Lee Marshall
knewconcepts.com
- DVD Eastern Repousse from Victoria Lansford
www.victorialansford.com
- Digital Scale from Liz Guild
www.eggmenterprises.com
- 5 Grobet Pliers from Monsterslayer.
www.monsterslayer.com
- Jewelry Supply Kit from Rio Grande
www.riogrande.com
- Freedom 44T Handpiece for the Flex-Shaft, and \$25 gift certificate from Freedom
www.foredom.net
- Gem Oro Personal Steam Cleaner from Contenti
www.contenti.com
- Satchel, leather bound sketch book, insulated coffeecup, Metal's Week, 2010 apron from Idyllwild Art Academy
www.idyllwildarts.org

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MASSC web site: www.massconline.com

MASSC Newsgroup:

MetalArtsSociety-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

MASSC serves the needs and interests of artists working in metals and provides an environment for the exchange of information, instructional workshops, demonstrations, lectures, and panel discussions. Annual dues (Sept 1-Aug 31); Regular Member, \$30; Family, \$45; Full-time Student \$20. Please add \$5 to your annual dues if you would like to receive a printed copy of the MASSC newsletter. All others will receive the newsletter via email. Membership forms are available at www.MASSCOnline.com

Screw It!

Looking for a quick easy way to cold connect some parts? Micro-fasteners and screws may be your new best friend. You can buy micro nuts and bolts in a dizzying array of size, types and materials on line from places like www.smallparts.com, micro-fasteners.com and micro-mark.com. You can also make your own threaded components with a micro tap and die set. These are sold by Rio, Micromark and just about any jewelry and tool outlet. Taps and dies are very easy to use, and with just a few minutes practice you'll be making your own threaded parts.



Taps are used with a corresponding drill size. to ensure that the hole is of the proper size for the tap. There are charts readily available all over the internet that show which drill size goes with with tap size. The same is true for rod or wire that will be threaded using the die plate. Taps are held in a pin vise or a T-handle and gently rotated in the hole to cut threads. Very little forces is needed as jewelry metals are relatively soft. Using cutting oil also makes the job go much easier. To thread a rod, secure it in a pin vise, exposing no more than 3/4" of rod. Because the metals is soft it can easily torque when the threads are being cut. Shortening the grip helps prevent torquing. Insert the rod in the proper size hole and rotate the pin vise or die plate, which ever is easier. Back out the die or tap every 3 turns to clear the threads.

Nothing motivates me like a good challenge. After bending wire for five years we grew to be old familiar friends. Not that challenges didn't exist in the field of wire, I just seemed unable to move from my comfort zone. In the shadows of my malaise lurked the possibility of taking fabrication classes, an option that brought with it plenty of anxiety. And nothing concerned me more than working with fire.

In 2002 I made the leap by regularly attending Deb Jemmott's fabrication class. It took me years to overcome my discomfort with soldering, but when I finally did, well, it has been a

Connie Fox



love affair ever since. After nine years I am still challenged by the endless possibilities of fabricating jewelry.

With a few fabrication skills under my belt, a need to personalize my designs came to the fore. I have always appreciated a straightforward approach, an earthy realism, an open heart, and a complex situation titrated down to its basic elements. These abstract qualities are translated into my preference for jewelry that has a natural, somewhat casual appearance. My recent and seemingly unrelated designs have an architectural, even industrial aesthetic. I can only attribute this offshoot to my fascination with architecture, especially the work of Frank O. Gehry and I.M. Pei. Regarding materials, I typically reach for sterling silver and may accent it with copper, gold, brass, acrylic, diamonds, or granite.

When I resonate with an object, whether it is a piece of pottery, a fabric, or a necklace, I pay close attention. I search for what features I love, and draw from these inspirations to design a piece of jewelry. For example, I love dots no matter where they appear – in the images of my work these little charmers are evident in various

forms. My process of putting a piece together involves playing with many components from my "inspiration file". Some elements are kept and others discarded. This method reflects my study of ikebana (Japanese floral design) a process of continually removing that which distracts from a balanced, coherent design. Lastly, after spending years as a psychotherapist it is no surprise that I stand firm on knowing my own heart in making design choices.

What advice do I have for new students? Think of jewelry making as a bird in flight. Birds need two wings and so do we. One wing is skill

building – it needs to be strong and exercised regularly. The other wing is design. It works best when following the beat of your own heart.

Once you start making jewelry an obvious question arises – what do you do with it? I loved selling my jewelry at shows and online until I started teaching. Holding classes led me to start a small online jewelry tools business. While all three of these endeavors were satisfying, it is teaching that brings me the greatest fulfillment. I couldn't do it all so I now only occasionally sell my jewelry. I am grateful that I have been able to earn a living without having to don my psychotherapist hat for the last 6 years.

Certain relationships etch a deep groove in your life. My mother, not a rich woman, left me a beautiful gold necklace after she died. She loved the necklace as it had belonged to her mother. This precious object was in my possession for a year before I realized where its real home should be. This piece is now in the hands of the woman responsible for all the joy I have experienced in making jewelry, Deb Jemmott.



Field Trip Continued from front page

and co-author of the book, *River of Gold: pre-Columbian*

Treasures from Sitio Conte, Dr. Pamela Jardine, the hidden burial site was a blessing in disguise.

“There were no markers to indicate that there was a cemetery there... If there had been markers, the Spaniards would have dug it up,” said Jardine. The site, which was amazingly undiscovered by Spanish conquistadors who devastated the native population in the 16th century, was the first scientifically controlled excavation in Panama’s history.



Highlights:

- The exhibition includes large embossed plaques, cast pendants and nose ornaments, gold-sheathed ear rods, and necklaces of intricate beads—as well as polychrome ceramics, and objects made of precious and semi-precious stones, whale-tooth ivory, and bone.
- In the first section of the exhibit, visitors are introduced to the geographical setting of central Panama

and the excavations at Sitio Conte. The exciting story of the dramatic find of a multi-grave burial containing a wealth of gold is told through site photographs, maps, drawings, even a video from the original color film of the archaeological team.

- The second section reconstructs lifestyles of Pre-Columbian society in ancient Panama.
- The third section analyzes the tantalizing iconography found on Sitio Conte goldwork and ceramics to help viewers interpret aspects of a long-lost ideology.
- The sophisticated metallurgical processes by which the goldsmiths of Sitio Conte achieved extraordinary results are thoughtfully explained in the final section of the exhibition.



Coming in July

A graphic for "TRANSFORMED THE MASKS OF MASSCC" featuring various masks and artifacts. The word "TRANSFORMED" is written in large, bold, black letters, with each letter containing a different mask or artifact. Below it, "THE MASKS OF MASSCC" is written in large, bold, white letters on a black background. The background is black with a white border.



It is believed that this tiara was commissioned sometime during 1900, possibly from the renowned jewelers Chaumet, by Guido Count von Henckel, First Prince von Donnersmarck, for his second wife Princess Katharina.

The exceptionally rare 11 pear-shaped Columbian emeralds that compose the tiara weigh over 550 carats and may well have been one of the most precious collections of the Donnersmarcks. The jewelry collection of the royal family was known to be on a par with, or even to have exceeded, those of many of the crowned heads of Europe.



Incandescents

Incandescent light bulbs are to be phased out by 2014 in the U.S, plus several states are banning them sooner. Currently, we rely heavily on incandescent lights for color grading gems and diamonds. Compact fluorescents and LEDs give off totally different wavelengths of light.

I can't predict how this is going to change our grading standards. I have already found a few gems that show three color changes, under three different kinds of light, so things will be different. For now though, I want to point out that soon you will be unable to purchase standard incandescent light bulbs. Since they may still be important, I suggest you stock up on a few while you still can.

MASSC Video Library

Now Available on DVD

The MASSC video library currently has 19 videos on DVD of past workshops that members can check out. These DVDs are direct videotapes of actual workshops and have not been edited. Watching a MASSC workshop video is akin to being there in person.

Workshop Videos Include:

- Alison Antleman** - Custom Clasps
- Belle Brooke Barer** - Sculptural Hollow Ring
- Diane Falkenhagen** - Mixed Media Techniques for Jewelry
- Leslee Frumin** - Classy Clasps
- Mary Lee Hu** - Weaving and Chains
- Charles Lewton Brain** - Fold Folding
- Betsy Manheimer** - Fold Forming
- Trish McAleer** - Metal Corrugation
- Bruce Metcalf** - Jewelry Alternatives
- Ben Neubauer** - Wire Fabrication
- Harold O' Connor** - Surface Embellishments & Efficient Workshop Methods
- Katherine Palochak** - Tufa Casting
- 2Roses** - Metal Patination
- Carol Sivets** - Metal Reticulation
- Lisa Slovis Mandel** - Hydraulic Press
- Carl Stanley** - Cuff Bracelet
- Pauline Warg** - Metal Beads
- Wayne Werner** - Stone Setting
- Betty Helen Longhi** - Forming Techniques

A \$20 donation is necessary to check out each DVD. This includes the use of the DVD plus 2-way shipping. There is no additional security deposit. Members can keep each DVD for up to 30 days. Videos can be checked out on the MASSC website at www.massconline.com. Click the "Video Library" link on the home page.

Yuma Symposium Pins by MASSC Members



One of the best parts of the annual Yuma Symposium is the opening night ceremony at Lute's Bar and Casino, which features the famous "pin swap". Hundreds of makers converge on Lute's with pins to trade with other attendees. Here is a sampling of pins by MASSC members.

Deb Jemmott



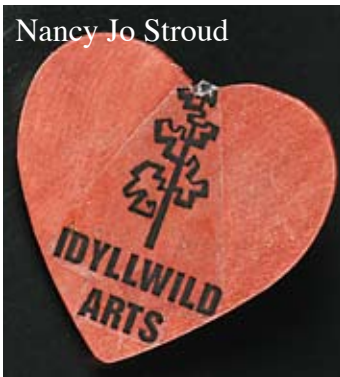
LaVerne Christensen



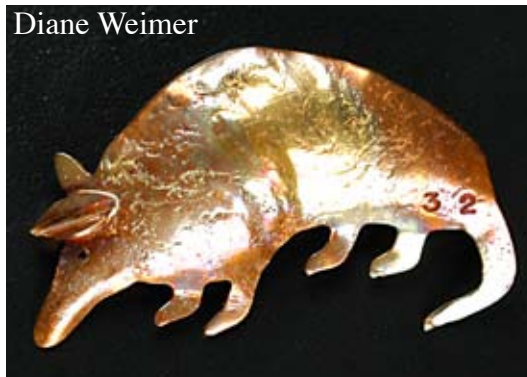
2Roses



Nancy Jo Stroud



Diane Weimer



Jonna Faulkner



Rachel Shimpock



1644 S.CLEMENTINE ST, ANAHEIM CA 92802

Upcoming Events

Next MASSC Board Meeting
June 10th, 2011 to RSVP 949-276-4300
all members welcome



Nancy Megan Corwin

Chasing and Repousse

Intermediate and Advanced Levels

El Camino College - Nov 11, 12 & 13th 2011

Did you change your address or email? Don't miss your MASSC newsletter and workshop announcements. Send changes to Diane Weimer diaweimer@verizon.net