

MASSC

METAL ARTS

SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sept/Oct 2009

JAPANESE METAL ALLOYING: SHIBUICHI & SHAKUDO

With Chris Ploof

Workshop

October
17th & 18th, 2009
Long Beach
City College
Workshop fee: \$170
Materials Kit \$100 -
\$125 (depending on
metals cost at time)

Chris will show students how to alloy their own metal with special emphasis to two of the Japanese alloys of copper, Shakudo and Shibuichi. However, the techniques learned can be applied to almost all metals. The skills of making your own sheet and wire are invaluable, and a keystone of the successful metalsmith. You will learn how to mix alloys, pour ingots, and reduce them to usable sheet and wire stock. After this class, you will know how to alloy metals (all knowledge is applicable to all jewelry metals),



how to reduce them to usable materials, how to patina Shakudo and Shibuichi, and you will go home with materials for use in your own designs. As always, proper and safe techniques will be stressed.

Shakudo is an alloy of copper and gold that patinas from a beautiful purplish-brown to black. Shibuichi is an alloy of copper and silver. It patinas from brown to gray and produces a beautiful surface when reticulated. This workshop will be filled via the MASSC lottery system with MASSC members receiving priority. To put your name in the lottery, contact Brenda Wey by September 17th. Everyone will be contacted on September 18th with the lottery results. Send an email to

designsbybrendawey@yahoo.com and put MASSC in the subject line. Or phone: 949-454-1213 (9am - 9pm) and ask for Brenda.



Passing the Torch

MASSC has made significant strides forward in the last four years. We developed the very first online juried exhibition. A first in the nation for any metal arts association. The MASSC newsletter is available via email in brilliant color. Members can now register and pay for workshops directly online. Even more happened behind the scenes to make MASSC a better organized and responsive association. Our continual progress is driven by dedicated people with a desire to do something better. My term has been blessed with a board of directors who are smart, supportive, open to change and very serious about the care and feeding of your association. Today MASSC is stronger than ever and we've set the stage for an even brighter future. As I pass the torch to the next generation of leaders I wish them all the best, and to you, our community of Southern California metal artists, I thank you all for a great four years.

Corliss Rose
outgoing president of MASSC

Our Incoming Board of Directors

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Treasurer	LaVerne Christenson
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MASSC Meet 'N Greet 2009

MASSC's Meet N Greet/Masscapalooza on August 15th in Irvine was a big success. A great time was had by all. We had former members come out all the way from AZ as well as members from LA to San Diego along with several non members that got their first taste of MASSC. While enjoying brunch, people exchanged creative ideas, did some networking, and made new friends. We ended the day with a tools/materials swap and a raffle with the following people winning prizes. Brenda Wey - \$25.00 Gift Certificate from Foreedom, Dianne Ravin - Book "Masters - Major Works by Leading Artists", Debbie Nelson - Book "500 Enameled Objects", Deb Ferguson - Lighted Loupe, Stella Schloss - Wire Texturing Wheel, Becky Jones Wainscott - Book "Metal Clay Beads"



MASSC Board of Directors

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Randi Newbill	macr7@cox.net
Trish McAleer	tmcaleer@att.net

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

Tips & Tricks

Using Lazertran on a curved surface from Brenda Wey

To stretch the Lazertran material around a difficult shape use a tiny drop denatured alcohol under the decal then apply the wet decal onto the shaped surface followed by a few more drops on top. The denatured alcohol will soften the decal allowing it to stretch around almost any shape. When dry, it will also give very good adhesion.”



For deep curves you will need to clip into your decal to conform to the perimeter of your shape. Be careful not to clip too closely. You can also use denatured alcohol on flat pieces for better adhesion.

Lazertran is available locally at Art Supply Warehouse in Westminster.



Handy Tool To Remove Solder Spills from Diane Weimer

I use Scotch Stones to remove solder spills. The stones can be purchased ONLY from Allcraft (talk to Tevel). They are long (about 4”), square, stone “sticks” which come in 1/8” (my favorite), 1/4” and 3/8”. I put my 1/8” in a chalk holder. I lay my metal on the bench after wetting it, next I wet the Scotch stone and rub the area I want to erase. It doesn’t scratch the surface, but takes out the solder spill completely. It also removes stray marks from the metal.



2009 Color Predictions

Pantone recently announced their spring color predictions along with what they feel will be the season's most popular color - Mimosa. Designers of everything from fashion to cars to dish ware and yes, jewelry, pay close attention to what the color-savvy folks at Pantone have to say.

Blue and purple lead the top 10 hues for spring '09. The palette also includes pops of vibrant color representing the optimism of the season, combined with sophisticated neutrals to ground the palette and provide stability in an unpredictable economic climate. A spectrum of greens rounds out the report, evoking a sense of freshness and new beginnings. - fashion color report spring 2009



Mimosa, a warm, engaging yellow. In a time of economic uncertainty and political change, optimism is paramount and no other color expresses hope and reassurance more than yellow.

Here is a look at Pantone's predictions and the top colors & palettes for Spring 2009.

Pantone:_Palace_Blue



Bright_Lapis



Pantone:_Salmon_Rose



Watermillion



Pantone:_Fushia_Red



I_drank_CL_Kool-aid



Pantone:_LuciteGreen



minted_peas



Pantone:_Dark_Citron



creep



Pantone:_Super_Lemon



heart_of_gold



Pantone:_Lavender



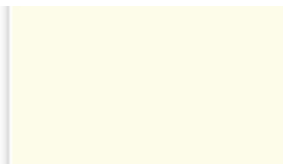
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Pantone:_VibrantGreen



vanilla_cream



Pantone:_Slate_Gray



peach_purr



Pantone:_Rose_Dust



90._89._73



Top Color Palettes
Conspicuous_Creep



Optimistic_2009



i_will_wait_for_you.



i_demand_a_pancake



Adrift_in_Dreams



Have_a_Happy_2009



Giant_Goldfish



Best_Wishes_For_2009





A Brief Overview of Shakudo & Shibuichi

Shakudo is the Japanese term for a low gold content alloy which usually consists of between 2-7% gold and the rest copper. Sometimes small amounts of other metals are added. Shakudo obtains a durable, purplish black surface color when treated with a suitable solution. This is used to best effect when the shakudo surface is combined with inlays (mechanical or fused) which then results in high contrast pattern options.

As with most Japanese metal coloring methods the techniques are metallurgically based rather than solution oriented. In the West we tend to use a myriad of coloring solutions and limited number of alloys. In Japan there are a limited number of coloring solutions and innumerable metal alloys

which react differently in the same solution. Over the long haul the Japanese approach is the more sound one as there is little change in the surface colors with time.

Shakudō was historically used in Japan to decorate sword fittings. When it was introduced to the West in the mid-19th century, it was thought to be previously unknown outside Asia, but recent studies and archaeological research have pointed out that 'Shakudo' type alloys were introduced to Japan from the mainland after the 15th century AD.

Examination of Egyptian, Roman and Greek artifacts show strong evidence for genesis of the technique in that area and



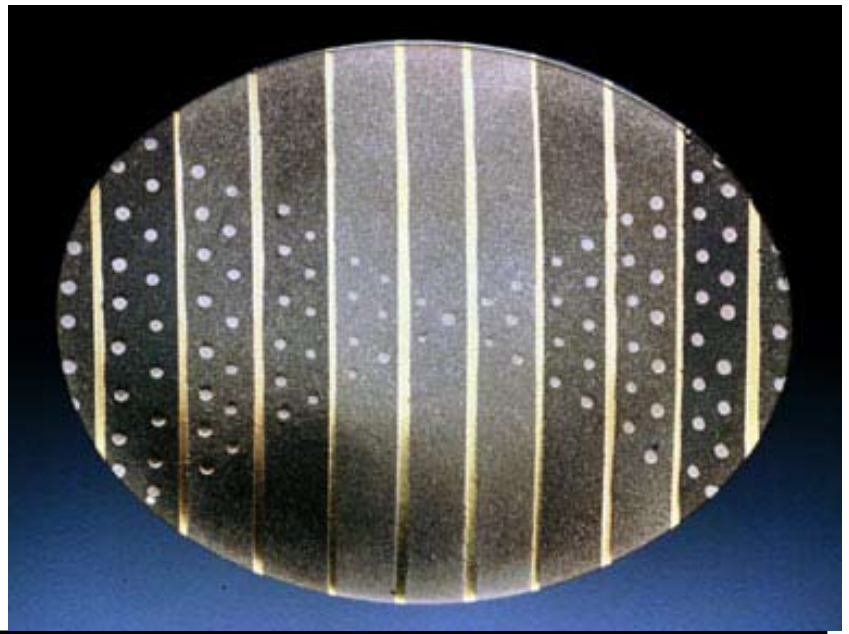
diffusion of the information eastwards. Use of the approach died out in the West and so today with the re-introduction of the procedures to the West they are seen as a Japanese technology.

Modern jewelry artisans have revived the use of Shakudō as a striking design element, especially for the technique of mokume-gane.

Shibuichi is an alloy which can be patinated into a range of subtle, muted shades of blue or green. Its name means “one-fourth” in Japanese and indicates the standard formulation of one part silver to three parts copper, though this

may be varied according to the desired effect. However, as the pure hues of the patina are generated by copper oxides and greyed down by silver oxide, the proportion of silver should never exceed that of copper.

For most of its history, shibuichi was mostly used to ornament various fittings for weapons until the Meiji reforms, when most swordmakers began to make purely decorative objects instead. Similar alloys have been used elsewhere, but the use of shibuichi to achieve different colored patinas has remained nearly unknown outside Japan, despite recent interest from artisans in the West.



Member Gallery



Bill Gallagher



Diane Weimer



2Roses



LaVerne Christenson



Kay Taylor



2919 West Pendleton Ave, Santa Ana CA 92704

Upcoming Events

September 27th

MASSC Board Meeting 10 am

24413 Chancellor Ct. Laguna Hills

Host - Ketarah Shaffer RSVP - 949-643-9693

December 5th & 6th

Wayne Werner - Intermediate Stone Setting

El Camino College

January 2010

Betsy Manheimer - Fold Forming

CSULB

March 2010

Betty Helen Longi - Shell Forming

Saddleback College

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