

# METAL ARTS

SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

[www.MASSCOnline.com](http://www.MASSCOnline.com)



## The Brooch Approach

In this 3 day, project-based workshop, participants will fabricate a brooch with a soldered frame and handmade pin back. Handmade mechanisms add a personalized touch and are much more durable and attractive than manufactured pin backs. We will cover two types of pin backs and discuss many variations of those styles.

### With Charity Hall

Learn tips to maximize the use of your saw for cutting sheet, tubing, and wire rod in ways that minimize filing and cleanup. This will mostly be a fabrication-based workshop, but you will have the option of making a simple torch firing enamel for the centerpiece of the brooch or you might choose to embellish the brooch with stones.

<http://charityhall.com/>

Dates: January 11, 12, 13, 2012

Location: CSULB

Fee: \$190 for MASSC members  
\$215 non members

Materials fee: Approx. \$30 (payable to instructor)

This workshop will be filled via the MASSC lottery system with MASSC members receiving priority. To put your name in the lottery, send an email to [ketarah@earthlink.net](mailto:ketarah@earthlink.net) by November 19th, 2012 and put "MASSC January Workshop lottery" in the subject line. Everyone will be contacted on November 20th with the lottery results.

# President's Message



Don't miss the MASSC Holiday Party on November 18, Sunday! Whether you are coming for the free file roll or you want to get in on a hot game of Metal's Bingo we will have lots of fun at the MASSC Holiday Party. On Nov. 18, from 1-4pm, the MASSC Holiday Party will take place in Downey at Angela Roskelley's house at 10808 Pangborn Ave, Downey. You can RSVP on the website at [www.massconline.com](http://www.massconline.com). If you want to join in the ornament exchange game, you just have to bring a handmade ornament to exchange. We are asking each person to bring a food item, which is designated by the first letter of your last name. For example, abcdefg=SALAD, hijklmn=APPETIZERS, opqrst=MAIN DISH, uvwxyz=DESSERT. So dust off your Complete Metalsmith and review the definitions and you should be one of our winners of the Metals Bingo game. Perhaps you will win a dozen Laser Gold saw blades 2/0 from Rio, or some emery boards in various grits for sanding because you will know the definition of say... a mordant.

There were 6 of us on that Saturday morning out at the teaching table in my garage on Fanwood Ave. in Long Beach... ready to do battle to cut, sew, iron, those 55 file rolls. Janette Parker and Ketarah Shaffer ironed on the MASSC logo as a last step. Trish McAleer and Ketarah Shaffer ironed the seams over, so it was easier to stitch. Angela Roskelley, Melinda Alexander and I were busy using our sewing machines to stitch up the sides and create the reinforced channels into which the file would fit. The last step was to slide in that red gros grain ribbon, which would serve as the tie. We worked from about 10am to 6:00pm that day and got

them all completed. Wendy Shaw had come to my house on that Friday and she serged (created a zig zag stitch all the way around all 55 pieces of fabric so it wouldn't fray) using, what else, her serger machine. Personally, I had no clue what a serger was, till Wendy patiently explained. So don't miss this chance to meet other metal-smiths, new and previous members at the Holiday Party in November!



The date for *A Day in L.A. and Orange County Studio Tour* will take place on a Saturday in April. The exact date will be announced soon. We will visit some very unique studios on the tour.

MASSC members, LaVerne

Christenson, Kristin Beeler and Janette Parker have volunteered to be the studios that will be featured. LaVerne has a compact, studio in a backyard garden shed. Kristin has converted her garage into a spacious studio. Janette has just completed construction on her 3rd floor studio loft, down in Belmont Shore. I think should prove most interesting. We will limit the size of the group to 3 groups of 12, so get your name in as soon as it goes online. There will be more information to follow.



MASSC offers you many opportunities for exciting times whether experiencing workshops, the holiday party, studio tour, or a website showcase for your work, so join now if you have not done so before. See you at the holiday party!



## MASSC Board of Directors

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<b>Webmaster</b> 714-778-5336	<b>Corliss Rose</b> corliss@2Roses.com
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**MASSC web site: [www.massconline.com](http://www.massconline.com)**

### MASSC Newsgroup:

MetalArtsSociety-subscribe@yahoogroups.com  
MASSC on FaceBook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/134035216002/>

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 \$20 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](http://www.MASSCOnline.com)

## MASSC Video Library Now Available on DVD

The MASSC video library currently has 21 videos on DVD of metalsmithing 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:

**NEW - Demo Day 2011 5 Demos**

**NEW - NC Black Micro Forming**

**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

**Jeanne Jerousek McAninch** - Chain Making

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](http://www.massconline.com). Click the "Video Library" link on the home page.

## MASSC WORKSHOP

*Write-up by Cheryl Lommatsch*

On the first Saturday of June 2012, 18 excited MASSC enthusiasts made the trek to the quaint town of Sierra Madre to spend an entire weekend experiencing the magical qualities of Hadar Jacobson's very own formula of Metal Clays. For me, this was a very special weekend, as Sierra Madre is my beloved home town. This event was hosted by the Creative Arts Group of Sierra Madre (CAG) a unique and welcoming environment created to offer local patrons many forms of creative learning and expression in the visual Arts. (This is also where I took my first Enameling class 45 years ago!)

For the majority of students attending, working with



with us. What an eye-opening adventure she offered to us for two inspiring days!

# Mokume Gane Rings in Metal Clay with Hadar Jacobson

Hadar's special clay would be a new adventure. I had a brief introduction to metal clay through Bronze Metal Clay and had, quite honestly, not really enjoyed it much. But, as a student of processes, I was excited to be able to watch Hadar share her knowledge, her beautiful clay and her generous bag of clay-tricks

First of all, if you go to Hadar's website/blog <http://artinsilver.com/blog>, you will see that her clays come in an irresistible assortment of delicious colors. There is also an "Instruction Manual for Hadar's Clay" which will take you through the processes of using her clays along with many important and valuable tips for success. (It is best to get to the instruction manual through the blog, rather than trying to 'google' it.)

The project of the day was to create a continuous ring using two or three contrasting colors of Hadar's clay in an extruder. For those who have worked with polymer clay, you will be familiar with this tool. Depending on what shape was chosen for the extruder, you would eventually have a ring that looked much like

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a tiny quilt or a Gustav Klimt painting. Hadar suggested that we first create a shank using rose bronze or copper clay, mentioning that the bronze clay, which



fires at a lower temperature, tends to shrink more than the others and causes separation. For creating support for our ring Shanks, Hadar recommends freezer paper wrapped around a 1/2" dowel that is only about 4 or 5 inches long.

Choose 3 colors that are somewhat compatible for firing. This is not a haphazard decision and Hadar had specific ideas about which colors work best for this. Upon Hadar's recommendation, I chose copper, bronze and steel clay, and decided to use copper for my ring shank.

For mixing the clay, there are specific instructions included in Hadar's instruction manual, please refer to them often. Do remember to shake the powder in the vial if you are not using all of it, and to mix your clays in small ceramic bowls or tiny steel bowls and to use distilled or filtered water. The dough should be a thick, crumbly, cookie dough consistency – not too watery. We used the spray and mix method, to control the water by spraying it, rather than pouring it. Lightly rub your hands with olive oil before picking up the dough and kneading it. Once all 3 colors are completely kneaded, they can each be rolled out, using polymer clay rollers, between playing cards that are

stacked side-by-side to the suggested depth for each color: Copper – 6 cards deep, Bronze XT = 3 cards deep, Steel = 1 card deep. It is recommended to NOT use White Bronze for this technique.

Using a tiny round circle cutter, cut 3 circles out of each color (they need to fit inside the extruder perfectly.) Then stack them: Copper-Bronze-Steel, next Copper-Bronze-Steel, and finally Copper-Bronze-Steel. It is best to make stacks of 3 to help the colors stay more 'pure' as they pass through the extruder. Choose a die to use as the shape that will come out of the extruder. I used a hexagon, Hadar used a trapezoid. Carefully and slowly, extrude the cane from the extruder and allow it to lay upon the table carefully as it is extruded. As it is extruded, the cane will be coated with the first color. Using the slicer from the polymer clay supplies, slice the canes about 1/8" thick (2 or 3 millimeters.)

Lightly wet the shank as you place pieces snugly together – as close as possible without losing the shape of your extruded slices. Dry with pieces on the ring.



When dry, fill the gaps with copper or bronze clay as the "grout." IT ALL HAS TO LOOK LIKE ONE SOLID PIECE – NO CRACKS!

Let dry, then sand until you see the design. Touch up with oil to see the design. Try to be able to identify

cont. pg 6

each color. Finally, wet your finger and smooth out the inside of the Ring. DO NOT SAND – as this will make the shank larger. Now – for those of you who are scientists at heart, the firing process will be exciting. For those of you who are not scientists, the firing process may seem somewhat, shall we say – daunting? Due to the binders in this clay, we need to burn out the binder before placing the rings in the kiln. This needs to be performed outside, with a metal bowl, a propane single burner stove or electric stove (gas stoves do not have enough heat) and a special carbon that has a coconut shell base. (Can be purchased at ActivatedCarbon.com for around \$40/27#....be sure to tell them that Hadar sent you. Ask for Roshan Perrera to help you.)

Once our rings were placed carefully in the bowl filled with coconut shell based carbon, it was covered with a piece of fiber board and the heat was brought up slowly so as to not to have it catch on fire! Two signs that the binder is burned off:

1. Smoke is done.
2. Pieces are dark.

For the next step in firing and sintering, the pieces were covered with the carbon and the container placed in the kiln, uncovered, elevated for maximum heat. Pieces were placed around the periphery of the bowl and towards the back of the kiln.

The kiln firing schedules are crucial and detailed in Hadar's blog. They differ for each type of clay. For our pieces containing 3 types of clay, a mid-fire schedule was used with a Paragon muffle kiln at 1520 F for 2 hours.

Please proceed to Hadar Jacobsen's website and blog and reap the benefits of her expertise and generosity of spirit along with vital information for creating beautiful, subtle and very memorable jewelry using her luscious Metal Clays. My experience at Hadar's workshop gave me a new appreciation for Metal Clay and how lovely and nuanced it truly can be.

## MASSC Monthly Meeting

MASSC SIG TUESDAYS meets regularly as part of MASSC. Members get together to learn metalworking techniques from each other? Its part of your MASSC membership.

At the last meeting we learned how to torch fire enamels. Janette Parker brought her MAPP gas setup... it is a small tank with a hose and a handle with the torch tip. She put it in Angela Roskelly's setup, (which Angela made and sold to all of us) which was a frame with the same width as a flex shaft desk holder. The frame resembles a pitchfork look, with the tines bent over 90 degrees to hold a small grate on top. The trivet is heated from beneath. The frame is secured to the table with an attached clamp. Below the clamp is a circular frame to hold the small tank of MAPP gas.



It worked great! I thought afterward we should have done this on a Saturday. It was just the BEST time.

Cheryl Lom-matsch prepared a handout. The set up was a lot of "stuff". Cheryl brought a bunch of equipment and materials. She also showed us the embossing glue and stamps and scraffitto and demonstrated it. Angela brought her table, the frame setup and she and

Angelina brought some enamels to share with all of us. That worked great.

James outdid himself with the refreshments and tips and tricks. He shared about eye protection and magnification. He had several examples that he uses. We had salami, cheese, crackers, fruit, chips, veggies and dip. He went all out. Very FUN!

**Our next meeting is in Nov. Space is very limited at the moment and we can only accomodate 9 people. Contact [diaweimer@verizon.net](mailto:diaweimer@verizon.net) for more information, and to be put on the list if you would like to attend.**



I'm so honored to have been invited to share something about my approach to jewelry making with my fellow MASSC members. To get me started, the Board asked what prompted me to pick up a torch. I'd love to say that I first picked up a torch to finish off a Crème Brulee, but that would be a lie. In truth, the "finishing off" would have involved charred wallpaper, not a yummy, crispy crust. As a source of food, my kitchen leaves a lot to be desired, but it is a great source of tools for the studio.

My pyromania actually began when I started working with metal clay. The option of torch-firing small pieces fascinated me. I loved watching flames dancing around the silver as the binder burned off. This fascination came in very handy when I taught a workshop in France and the kiln I was promised never materialized. Thank goodness a nearby general store carried big-headed, small-bodied propane torches.

Eventually, I came to love sticking metal things together with flame and solder though I still regard it as a personal triumph when said things don't fall apart in the pickle. I've been fooled by flux too often to take this process for granted!

I've been very lucky to have studied with many wonderful teachers. Deb Jem-mott, Pauline Warg and Connie Fox, in particular, have generously shared their



# Jonna Faulkner

All photos by Steve Rossman

impressive ways around the soldering bench. I want to grow up to be just like them. I can always dream...

Gaining confidence with soldering opened up a world of materials options for me. I expect that metal clay will always be an important element in my work, but I now love working with sheet metal as well. I'm interested in combining the two forms of metal using hot or cold connections.

It's my firm belief that everything goes better with dark chocolate and pearls. I've just started including more stones in my pieces as well. (NB: So far, I haven't included chocolate in my work, but you never know.)

I also love work that includes objects that aren't precious in a conventional sense and want to explore that direction, too. To that end, I'm taking a class with Tom McCarthy at the Idyllwild Arts Metals Week program at the end of June.



I am so grateful to have discovered my passion for working with metal. There's always something new to learn, so I'll never be bored. I'm also grateful because I've discovered an incredibly creative, inspiring and nourishing community through jewelry making. Making strong connections is important to me in so many ways, whether material or spiritual.

My husband, Steve Rossman, just built and launched a new website for me at [www.jonnafaulkner.com](http://www.jonnafaulkner.com). It includes two firsts: a blog and a link to an Etsy shop. A lifelong computer phobic, I'm thrilled that my site is user friendly so I can make changes to it myself. (OK, I still need a little coaching.) The best news is that I had my first on-line sale after my Etsy shop had been open for only a week.

Balancing time in the studio with time at the computer to organize classes, keep in touch with the community, and sell my work is tricky. I keep falling off the balance beam. As I learned with soldering, however, practice helps. So does dark chocolate.



## Upcoming MASSC Events

**November 18, 2012**

**MASSC Holiday Party/Ornament Exchange  
Downey CA**

**January 11-13, 2013**

**Charity Hall The Brooch Approach**

**March 16-17, 2013**

**Jillian Moore Resin in 3D**

**April 20, 2013**

**MASSC member studio tour  
OC/Long Beach**

**May 18-19, 2013**

**Pauline Warg**

**Sculpted Bezels & Non-Traditional Stone Settings**

## MASSC Board Meeting & Holiday Party

**Sunday,  
Nov 18, 2012,**

**Board Meeting 10am-12**

**Holiday Party, 1-4**

**RSVP to:**

**[massconline.com](http://massconline.com)**

Did you change your email? Don't miss your MASSC newsletter and workshop announcements. Send changes to Janis Carlson at [janis@threehandstudio.com](mailto:janis@threehandstudio.com)