



# BCC Jewelry Studio Newsletter

Volume 1, Edition 2

Spring, 2012



*'Lilac Wedding Bands' - Sterling Silver and Iolite, Wax Cast, Hand Finished. By Rachel Morris. (Photo Courtesy of Green Photography)*

## Spotlight: BCC Faculty - Rachel Morris

Rachel Morris began her career in jewelry as a child in Norman, Oklahoma. A student at the Firehouse Art Station, she took enameling and basic silversmithing classes. She showed at numerous craft shows and a Boston area gallery while still in middle school. Her artistic endeavors turned to theater in high school. She went on to study at Drew University & Wesleyan University, receiving a BA in Theatre Arts and she holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from Monmouth University. Having been away from metalwork for a number of years, she was pleased to return to it when she moved to Newtown and found the Brookfield Craft Center.



She studied here with Annemarie Ciuffini for a number of years and now teaches several foundation courses (Silversmithing, Waxworking, and Concepts of Design). Rachel's work often incorporates semi-precious stones, sea glass or fossils and through her business, Eclectic Nature Jewelry & Design, she makes and sells handcrafted, custom designed work in silver, gold, and other metals, often with themes found in nature. Rachel is also the Jewelry Studio Manager at the Craft Center.

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## Getting Started: Silversmithing 101 & 102

If you're a beader or a cold connection artist (or even if you've never made jewelry before), and you want to learn how to use a torch and other tools, Silversmithing 101 & 102 are just right for you. In 101, you learn the fundamentals of working with silver and create a sterling silver ring with a cabochon gem. You'll have time for another project of your own design. In Silversmithing 102, you build on the 101 skills, learning more advanced stone setting techniques (including making a bezel). You get more practice soldering and using the torch as you expand your design experience. It's a great foundation for all your subsequent jewelry work, and will get you crafting unique, original, made-by-you art!

As of press time, there's still room in the Tuesday PM 101 class (**note, it's changing dates to start on April 17th**) for four weeks (6:30-9:30 pm) as well as in the Mothers' Day weekend workshop version, May 12-13th. If you're ready for Silversmithing 102, it's presently scheduled for 3 Wednesday in May (May 9-23rd) from 10 am to 2 pm.



## Spotlight: Upcoming Classes

### Enameling - Joanne Conant

*Apr 28-29, 2012 (10am-5pm)*

For all levels, this class teaches the art of fusing colored glass onto metal, be it copper, silver, or gold. Learn the basics of using opaque, transparent, and

opalescent enamels, as well as the technique of cloisonné. Topics covered will be sifting, stenciling, and wet packing. Add some sparkle with silver foil and you will create an enameled piece on copper that can stand alone or be incorporated into a larger project.



### Precious Metal Clay (PMC) 101 - Cynthia Battista

*May 19-20, 2012 (10am-5pm)*

A relatively new craft, Precious Metal Clay (PMC) was invented about 20 years ago and has been a popular medium for inventive artists ever since. PMC is made of fine metal particles suspended in a binder. The clay is easy to shape and mold with your hands and tools, and is fired in a kiln to burn off the binder, leaving the pure metal behind. In this two-day workshop you will gain a foundation for working with fine silver PMC, learn the proper use of tools, mold making, and how to fire, finish, and patina your pieces.



### Why Become a Member?

BCC is a non-profit craft school which remains open through the generosity of its members and donors. As a member, you can:

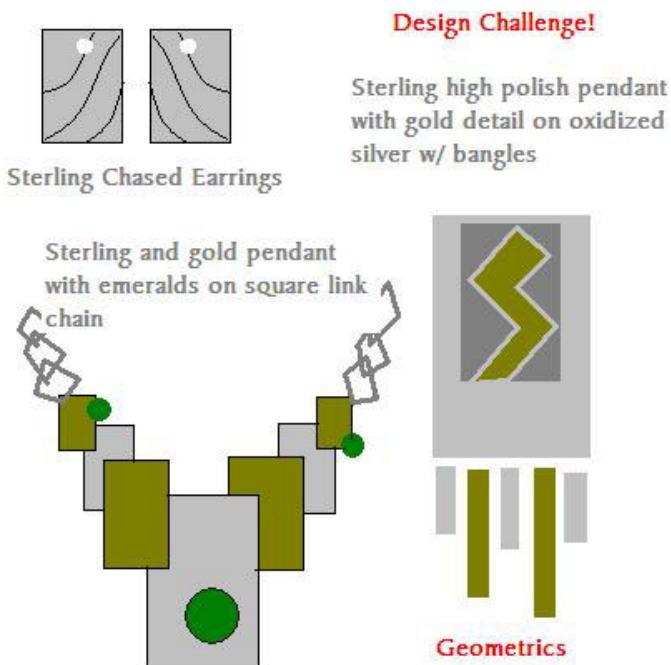
- \* Show your support for the arts
- \* Be invited to show openings at the gallery
- \* Take members-only specialty classes in your choice of media
- \* Receive special sale prices at the gallery during sales
- \* Write off your tax deductible membership
- \* Double your donation value with our Windgate matching grant

Join us online at:

<http://www.brookfieldcraft.org/>

## Design Challenge: Geometric Shapes

This month's design challenge comes from an exercise students did at last month's free Members' Workshop on Jewelry Design. Take a simple geometric shape of your choice – circle, square, triangle – and sketch a group of designs around it. Start with a single instance of the shape and make a series of them on the page – add texture to some, color to others, take away segments within the shape. Then riff on the shape by adding dimension – a circle becomes a dome or a ball, a square, a cube, a triangle, a pyramid. Try adding variations to the sides of the dimensional object – what happens when one side is textured and the other smooth? Next, work with multiples and progressive sizes of your chosen shape. Do they become links in a chain? Do they stack to become elements of a ring? Dangle from one another as earrings? Get wild – try mixing your shapes and adding lines for more dimensionality. Play!



## Private and Semi-Private Instruction

Many of BCC's instructors are available for one-on-one tutoring or for semi-private lessons (2 students). If you can't make a regularly scheduled class or want a little extra guidance on a specific skill set that you didn't quite get down, call to make an appointment. These sessions generally require a minimum of 4 hours and are \$50/hour for private or \$35/hour for semi-private lessons. Materials are not included.

## Cool Tools At the School – Freedom Micro Motor

Many of us already use the flex-shaft tool we often refer to by brand as the “Freedom”, but in truth, that’s only one of a number useful tools Freedom makes. (There are also other manufacturers of flex-shafts, though most of ours are, indeed, Freedoms.) Since the Freedom headquarters is down the street from us, in Bethel, we’ve been fortunate enough to build a strong working relationship with the organization, leading to our becoming a reseller. (Remember: You can get a 10% discount off the retail price plus an additional 10% rebate direct from Freedom for being a BCC student.)

As a result of this relationship, Mike Zagielski, the sales manager, will sometimes show us the newest tools and bits they’ve developed. Most recently, he let us demo the new line of bits designed especially for stone setting, and,



especially for those of us who do a lot of cup bezels, these bits are miracle workers. They can be used with a traditional flex shaft, but the real benefit comes when you use the Micro

- Motor. The difference between a Flex Shaft and a MicroMotor is in the response of the hand piece. While a Flex Shaft is either on or off when you push the foot pedal, the MicroMotor only responds when you actually put pressure against the tip. This leaves you with considerably more control over your hand piece and limits the risk of scratching the stone with jumps and skips of the tool.

The MicroMotor can also be used with larger hammer bits, engraving tips, and other detail-enhancing bits. Before using the new setting bits, I’d have said this is a “nice to have” tool, but now, it’s high on the wish list for my own studio.

## Good Reads

There are two magazines BCC subscribes to for the Jewelry Studio that we find students poring over as soon as the new issues arrive: *Art Jewelry* and *Jewelry Artist*. Although they have a similar look and feel sometimes, they’re both distinct enough to merit a look. *Jewelry Artist* used to be called simply “*Lapidary Journal*” and that connection is still strongly reflected in its content – in addition to all the how-to projects specific to jewelry making, most issues have a stone cutting project and/or an article about a “new” or fashion-forward stone that jewelers are using these days. *Art Jewelry* also has some fantastic projects but has a bit more of a museum-quality feel to it.

They both are chock-full of stunning photographs of professional work in a wide array of techniques from traditional to modern. *Art Jewelry* provides an annual Education issue which is a nice bonus for students of the arts looking for classes and programs when they travel. *Jewelry Artist* has a series of “Design Challenges” each month that are geared to get

artists thinking about how they would work around a specific concept or stone. Both magazines provide superb directions for their project ideas from teachers whose names may already be familiar to you, and they each make clear whether the project is considered beginner level, intermediate, or more challenging work.

They also both have online presences that subscribers can make use of to find additional instruction and inspiration.

*Art Jewelry* can be found at:  
<http://www.artjewelrymag.com/>

*Jewelry Artist* is available at:  
<http://www.jewelryartistmagazine.com/>. Remember, you can also check out the latest issues in the BCC studio in our books and magazines rack.

Got a publication or website that inspires you? Let us know!





## Jewelry Grant Matched Thanks to Your Generosity!

Thank you, BCC students and patrons of the arts - We have successfully completed our anonymous matching challenge grant for the Jewelry Studio! We raised \$1000 total towards equipment. That \$1000 is doubled again for BCC, overall, through our Windgate Foundation Grant. Windgate renewed our major grant for the year for another \$100,000, so every dollar you donate becomes two.

If you haven't had a chance to donate, don't worry, you still can! We're about to kick off this year's capital campaign, and BCC needs your support more than ever. If your workplace has a matching grant program, you may be able to make each dollar count even more. If so, please let us know when you donate and tell us who we need to contact to request the match.

To donate, either go online to

<https://store.brookfieldcraftcenter.org/donate.asp>

or mail a check to us with a note clarifying that it is a donation and not a class or membership registration to:

Brookfield Craft Center  
286 Whisconier Road (Route 25 at 202)  
Brookfield, CT 06804

## Bench Tips from BCC Instructors

You'll always pick up something useful from BCC's top notch jewelry instructors, above and beyond the specific skills you came to learn. Many of these tips and tricks are useful in your everyday practice. Here are a few recently gleaned tidbits:

**How to quickly make matching ear wires:** Joy Raskin's trick is to cut two pieces of wire to the same length and then line them up side by side and bend both of them backwards over her thumb. She then finishes them off with pliers in a matter of moments.

**How to know your silver is annealed without melting it:** Joanne Conant tells us to make a mark with a black Sharpie marker on the piece you are annealing. As you heat it on the annealing tray, the mark will soon disappear. As the last of it fades, it's time to stop heating – you're well annealed!

## Gilding the Lily: Joanne Conant's Keum-Boo Workshop

This winter, Joanne Conant taught a mini-workshop in Keum-Boo, the technique used to add 24kt gold foiling to silver. This three hour class showed us all just how simple it is to do, and just how much life it brings to an otherwise plain piece of jewelry without the cost of working entirely in gold. The technique is done either on pure silver or on sterling which has been depletion gilded until a thick layer of pure silver is built up.

First, we carefully cut designs from a special weight of Keum-Boo foil, heavier than gold leaf, but still very delicate. (We placed it between sheets of tracing paper in order to cut it without tearing.) Once the foil was in place, the entire piece was heated on a standard household hotplate! Note that it does need to be one with a temperature gauge, rather than just Lo-Med-Hi buttons. As the piece comes to temperature, we used burnishers (either standard steel or agate) to gently push the foil down onto the silver. As the heat came up, the foil stuck down and we rubbed at it to remove any bubbling and ensure a complete connection. We would inspect the piece through magnifiers afterwards to check for lumps, and it's possible to simply reheat the piece and seal it better.

Once done, you can (carefully) still do minor soldering on the piece, and you can use a blackening agent on the silver to make the gold pop more, but even by itself, it's a stunning look. Voila! So simple, and even rather fun!

We're interested in learning what kinds of classes you'd like to see in the mini-workshop format – generally things that can be covered in a 3-4 hour period. If you have ideas, let our Education Director, Heather Lawless, know.

## Open Studio Update

Jewelry open studio (for those with Silversmithing 101 or equivalent) is held on Wednesdays (7pm-10pm), Tuesdays (10am-1pm), and all-day "Second Fridays" (2nd Friday of the month from 10am to 7pm). Buy a 4 session pass good for 6 weeks at \$12/hour or an 8 session pass good for 12 weeks at \$10/hour on our website, via phone, or in person. Session blocks are 3 hours each (you can use multiples up on Second Fridays, but no splitting a 3 hour block up). You must be a member or have free class studio sessions to participate.

## Inspired Artists at BCC: Jewelry as Muse

By Rosemary Erb-Fawcett

*Rosemary Erb-Fawcett has been a long-time student at Brookfield Craft Center, studying extensively with artist Annemarie Ciuffini. Rosemary continues to work on her craft during BCC's regular Wednesday night Open Studio blocks. Some of her latest works have been inspired by a recent museum visit.*

The Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum had a showing of the Van Cleef & Arpels Jewelry collection this past year (February 18–July 4, 2011). Its presentation was spectacular.

I dodged the on-lookers who were lingering too long and found openings where I, too, would linger too long to draw a sketch or simple shape, so that I could bring the form to mind at a later date. The catalogue had several photos but not nearly enough, and the book was sold out. I was glad to have drawn my little sketches to remember these masterful works of art.

"#166 Bunch of Grapes brooch. Paris France Ca. 1915. Seed pearls, diamonds white gold, silver VC&A Collection. One of the earliest known pieces of Van Cleef & Arpels jewelry, this brooch uses a delicate setting, silvery palette, and color differences in the pearls to create an airy interpretation of grapes."

*From: Cooper Hewitt's Van Cleef & Arpel exhibit catalog*

"Bunch of Grapes" can be seen at:

<http://www.cooperhewitt.org/node/990>

This piece was quite the show stopper. It was no more than two inches long and I could see the cluster of pearls was held on by hidden posts of white gold all connecting and leading to the stem and grape leaves at the top, encrusted with small diamonds. The key was the incredible array of tiny

seed pearls; varied in color and size with tints of white, off white, pink and gray blue, beautifully arranged. My hunt for the perfect seed pearls is underway.

In a less important showcase I spotted a charm bracelet ca. 1952, full with great balance and placement of yellow gold charms. The object that stood out for me was a small pair of worn gold tongs holding a cube of rough cut quartz. "The Iceman Cometh," I said to myself. I made a small sketch and imagined the tongs larger, as a pendant holding ice-like chunks in sterling silver to wear on a hot summer night.

*Several of Rosemary's creations in "The Iceman Collection" are seen here:*



## BCC, Social Media, & You!

Did you know BCC has a Facebook page? Check us out and Like us at:

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

There's also a blog with periodic postings about goings on in the area art scene in general, and BCC in particular, available at:

<http://www.brookfieldcraft.org/blog/>

We're just preparing to roll out our new forums, starting with Jewelry and adding other media if there's interest. You can register and help us kick off the discussions at:

<http://community.brookfieldcraft.org/>

## Jewelry Studio Wish List

We've got a lot of items on our wouldn't-it-be-nice list, and some on our must-haves list, ranging from \$500 pieces of equipment down to \$25 items. If you'd like to donate or sponsor the purchase of a specific item, please select from the list below. If you'd like to help but aren't sure how, consider a cash donation earmarked for the Jewelry Studio:



- Mid-sized ultrasonic cleaner
- 9 lb Polishing Tumbler
- Stainless Steel Shot (mixed – 5 lbs)
- Disc cutter set for Bonny Doon press
- 0 and 00 Smith Acetylene Torch Tips
- Y splitter and Work Surface for Smith Little Torch workstation
- Bezel forming punch sets  
(round, oval, square, pear, trillium)
- Set of Riveting Hammers  
(Various sm to med/lg heads)
- Flush cutters (2-4 pairs)
- Set of Wire Forming Jigs & Pegs
- Set of Texturing Hammers
- 90 degree Hart Burr Set
- Setting Burr Set
- 45 degree Hart Burr Set
- Inverted Cone Burr Set
- Die form urethanes for Bonny Doon
- Bracelet forms for Bonny Doon
- Jump Ring maker
- Necklace mandrel



## Contact Us

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*The mission of Brookfield Craft Center is to teach and preserve the skills of fine craftsmanship and enable creativity and personal growth through craft education.*

**Contact Rachel Morris, Jewelry Studio Manager, to discuss equipment sponsorship.**

## BCC Gallery & Gift Shop

Did you know? The Craft Center Gallery & Gift Shop is open and filled with gorgeous art! Need a last minute housewarming present or birthday gift? Looking for some new art to spice up your home for Spring? Swing by and visit! Mon-Sat 11-5, Sun 12-4 and by appointment.

**Want to write for our new quarterly newsletter?  
Email Rachel Morris:**

[rmorris@brookfieldcraft.org](mailto:rmorris@brookfieldcraft.org)

### Brookfield Craft Center

286 Whisconier Road (Route 25 @ 202)  
Brookfield, CT 06804  
203-775-4526

<http://brookfieldcraft.org>



## Spring Jewelry Program @ BCC – Check the website – More classes being added all the time!

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	9	10 10a-1p Open Studio	11 7-10p Open Studio	12 6-9p Jewelry Sampler	13 10a – 7p All Day Open Studio	14
	Mon 16	Tue 17 10a-1p Open Studio 6:30-9:30p Silversmithing 101 (NEW DATES!)	Wed 18 7-10 pm Open Studio	Thu 19 6-9p Jewelry Sampler	Fri 20	Sat 21 Studio Spring Cleanup (10a – 5p) 10a-5p Glass Beadmaking 101
Sun 22 10a-5p Glass Beadmaking 101 (glass studio)	Mon 23	Tue 24 10a-1p Open Studio 6:30-9:30p Silversmithing 101	Wed 25 7-10 pm Open Studio	Thu 26 6-9p Jewelry Sampler	Fri 27	Sat 28 10a-5p Enameling
Sun 29 10a-5p Enameling	Mon 30	Tue May 1 10a-1p Open Studio 6:30-9:30p Silversmithing 101	Wed 2 7-10 pm Open Studio	Thu 3 6-9p Jewelry Sampler	Fri 4	Sat 5
Sun 6	Mon 7	Tue 8 10a-1p Open Studio 6:30-9:30p Silversmithing 101	Wed 9 10a-2p Silversmithing 102 7-10 pm Open Studio	Thu 10 6-9p Jewelry Sampler	Fri 11 10a – 7p All Day Open Studio	Sat 12 10a-5p Silversmithing 102
Sun 13 10a-5p Silversmithing 102	Mon 14	Tue 15 10a-1p Open Studio	Wed 16 10a-2p Silversmithing 102 7-10 pm Open Studio	Thu 17 6-9p Jewelry Sampler	Fri 18	Sat 19 10a-5p Precious Metal Clay (PMC) 101 10a – 12p Social Media for Artists

# Spring Jewelry Program @ BCC – Check the website – More classes being added all the time!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>May 20</b> 10a-5p Precious Metal Clay (PMC) 101	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10a-1p Open Studio	<b>23</b> 10a-2p Silversmithing 102 7-10 pm Open Studio	<b>24</b> 6-9p Jewelry Sampler	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Sun 27</b>	<b>Mon 28</b>	<b>Tue 29</b> 10a-1p Open Studio	<b>Wed 30</b> 7-10 pm Open Studio	<b>Thu 31</b>	<b>Fri June 1</b>	<b>Sat 2</b>
<b>Sun 3</b>	<b>Mon 4</b>	<b>Tue 5</b> 10a-1p Open Studio	<b>Wed 6</b> 7-10 pm Open Studio	<b>Thu 7</b>	<b>Fri 8</b> 10a – 7p All Day Open Studio	<b>Sat 9</b> 10a – 5p Heatless Chainmaking
<b>Sun 10</b>	<b>Mon 11</b>	<b>Tue 12</b> 10a-1p Open Studio	<b>Wed 13</b> 7-10 pm Open Studio	<b>Thu 14</b>	<b>Fri 15</b>	<b>Sat 16</b> 10a-5p Non-Conforming Dies & Embossing w/ Hydraulic Press
<b>Sun 17</b>	<b>Mon 18</b>	<b>Tue 19</b> 10a-1p Open Studio	<b>Wed 20</b> 7-10 pm Open Studio	<b>Thu 21</b>	<b>Fri 22</b>	<b>Sat 23</b>
	<b>Mon 25</b>	<b>Tue 26</b> 10a-1p Open Studio	<b>Wed 27</b> 7-10 pm Open Studio	<b>Thu 28</b>	<b>Fri 29</b>	<b>Sat 30</b> 10a – 5p Loop in Loop Chainmaking

