

August 18 - September 21, 2023



Tiny Shiny Guild

An invitational exhibition
curated by Natasha Seedorf

**Generously sponsored by Colorado Mountain College
ArtShare program. Thank you!**

At the Carbondale Arts Gallery
in The Launchpad (76 S 4th Street)
carbondalearts.com | 970-963-1680
Open weekdays 10am - 5pm

About “Tiny Shiny Guild”

“Tiny Shiny Guild” is an invitational show curated by Natasha Seedorf highlighting the work of Colorado Mountain College jewelry and metalsmithing students and instructors, including Andréa Bersson, Jill Collins, Jennifer DiCuollo, Kira Diggins, Carol Gault, Liz Heller, RJ Jensen, Mary Lackner, Sue Leppla, Olivia Pevec, Marie Quinn, Stan Ruther, Drew Sorenson, Morgan Walsh, Julie Wille, Georgine Young, and Shauna Young.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

About our Sponsor

“Tiny Shiny Guild” is generously supported by Colorado Mountain College’s ArtShare program which is powered by the CMC Foundation and exists to connect their students and communities at large to a diverse array of art, literature, music, and culture. Learn more at <https://coloradomtn.edu/foundation/artshare/>

Special thanks to Dave Durrance, Marilyn Lowey, Sally Nicholson, and David Thickman for gallery preparation, and to Savanna LaBauve and Natasha Seedorf for install assistance.



*“Of Love” and “Of Loss” (silver, bone & pink tourmaline)
by Natasha Seedorf, curator*

From the Curator:

I'm very excited to share the work of some talented local metalsmiths and jewelers whom I have met through teaching at the college.



In my latest work I've been exploring the ideas of love/loss, gratitude/grief, and celebration/mourning. I've been examining how these pairs of ideas relate to each other and how the understanding of one is essential to that of the other. When I pick up a bone from a dead animal, I can feel grief over its loss at the same time as a deep appreciation for its beauty and gratitude for its existence in the world. So, I use bones and other overlooked or underappreciated objects in my work and juxtapose them against bright stones and shiny metals to try to make manifest this truth that I see- that these seeming opposites are integral to each other and to understanding our world.

**- NATASHA SEEDORF
Carbondale, Colorado**

ANDRÉA BERSSON
Glenwood Springs, Colorado

I am a longtime valley local who has been making jewelry of some fashion since early 2002. Previously my artistic pursuit was in the form of rubber stamps and papercrafts. You may remember my tiny shop in Basalt and then Glenwood Springs: Andrea Stamps, Ink!



After retirement I was able to fulfill my dream of silversmithing with the talented artist and teacher Natasha Seedorf and Liz Heller through CMC. I am excited to present some of my beginning projects in the Tiny Shiny Show at Natasha's request. I look forward to many more classes, shows and projects.

JILL COLLINS
Snowmass Village, Colorado

My first metalsmithing class at CMC was taken because the class I needed was filled up. The lost wax casting experience took me from beading to a level of jewelry making that I never thought I could learn. Since Fall of 2018 I have had assignments from Liz and Natasha almost every semester. They have taught me to make my own prototypes and samples for a collection of my own. We have so much fun in class that I get to be free to create without being concerned if it will sell.



JENNIFER DICUOLLO
Carbondale, Colorado

My first Jewelry and Metals class was in the Fall of 2012 at CMC with Natasha Seedorf. Through this experience I found my artistic medium of choice and I have been taking Jewelry and Metal Classes at CMC since. I have been involved in the design world as a part of my professional career as a landscape architect and making Jewelry has been an important creative and social outlet for me outside of my day job. I am drawn to the tactile and additive process of working with metal. I enjoy exploring the potential of simple, clean forms. My typical process involves making multiple pieces; creating variations and building upon the geometry and specific techniques with each iteration.



KIRA DIGGINS
Glenwood Springs, Colorado

As an artist working in silver fabrication and lost wax casting, I find endless fascination and inspiration in the wonders of nature. My creative journey is an exploration of the delicate and intricate beauty found in the organic world, and how it intertwined with the brilliance of silver. Through my art, I aim to capture the essence of nature's whispers and translate them into timeless pieces that resonate with those who appreciate the harmony of the natural world.



CAROL GAULT
Carbondale, Colorado

When people ask me what I do, I answer, I make things. Needlecrafts and photography have been a part of my life since childhood. In the last decade I have added metal jewelry and fused glass work to my skill set. I have used my love of nature and science to design these necklaces.

Using many different metals, stones and glass, I have added animals, plants, and stars to my designs.



LIZ HELLER
Carbondale, Colorado

Liz Heller received her MFA in Sculpture from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 2014. Since then, she has participated in artist residency programs at The Anderson Ranch Arts Center, The Carbondale Clay Center, The Haystack Open Studio Residency, Campos De Gutierrez in Medellin, Colombia and The Red Brick Center for the Arts. Liz sells her ceramics locally at the Aspen Saturday Market, Anderson Ranch Arts Center and the Launchpad and makes jewelry for fun. She has been in the Valley since 2015 and teaches lost wax casting and ceramics at CMC Aspen.



RJ JENSEN

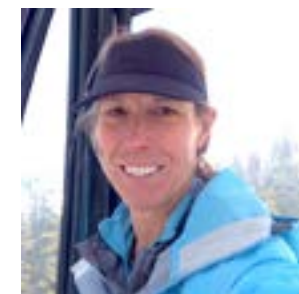
Originally from the Roaring Fork Valley, I primarily work in copper and silver. I am always looking for new textures and patterns in every environment, whether it's the rocks under us, the bubble rip curl in the stream, or digital recurrence in the ether.



The intention of my work is to create a connection that will spark a relationship with the viewer or wearer to nature and manufactured things in our everyday life, the methodical repetition of nature and how we view ourselves apart from it.

MARY LACKNER
Aspen, Colorado

I began making art jewelry in 2003, drawing on my profession as a cartographer in Aspen, Colorado. At that time, I was surprised to discover that jewelry can be dark, organic, emotional and textural. I was also drawn to metals by the versatility, expressiveness and weightiness of a material which allows for endless creative opportunities. Whether I am travelling and connect with a place, experiencing grief, or just uncertain about the future, I find there is significant emotional exploration and release in creating tangible objects. My current work attempts to respect the memory of a place, spirit,



or thing, and honor the related emotions. My work is constructed from sterling silver, bronze, copper and brass crafted using a range of metal working techniques including fabrication, forming, cold connections, and lost wax casting.

SUE LEPPLA
Waitsfield, Vermont

I lived in the Roaring Fork Valley from 1984 through 2018. I am the former owner of Signature Picture Framing in Basalt. I first signed up for jewelry at CMC after coming through uterine cancer in 2011. It was time to start reclaiming the artist in me. I found a community of women that continued to repeat the course every semester year after year and we grew together as jewelers and friends. We affectionately refer to the group as “Our drinking club with a jewelry problem”! I no longer live in the Valley as I moved to Vermont in 2018, but I miss this weekly ritual.



As I repeated the class, I continued to take on projects that would seriously challenge me and further my jewelry techniques. The most epic project was the memorial piece that I created following the death of my mother in 2014. When my daughter and I were going through her jewelry box we came across a necklace that my mom never wore, but was in that box since I was a child. My daughter asked my father about the necklace and he told us that it was from “The Little Sisters of Minerva”. He went on to tell us that when he was a junior at the

University of Minnesota and my mother was a freshman his fraternity, SAE, would “kidnap” freshman women and make them honorary members of the fraternity. They were called “The Little Sisters of Minerva” and the necklace was a symbol of this honor. It was the way my father and his fraternity brothers got to know the cute girls who they wanted to get to know. My parents had their first date at a University Basketball game which, he added with a smile, they both had already purchased the student pass so it didn’t cost him much money! They ate hot dogs and he drove her home that night and knew he that night he would marry her. They were married the day after my mother graduated three years later. He added with a wink at the end of the story, “Do you know what SAE stands for? Somebody, anybody, everybody. Sex above everything. Sleep and eat!” We all laughed and I brought the necklace home.

When I designed the locket I wanted the necklace to remain intact and to be able to remove it and wear it. I formed the basketball out of copper to represent that first date. I hand cut the lattice work to show that there was something hidden behind the ball. Opening the cover reveals the second layer where the actual necklace is suspended behind an opening showing the coat of arms of the fraternity as well as noting my parents’ names and the year of that first date and the title “Little Sisters of Minerva”. Open the second door and it reveals the inside container that holds the chain of the necklace and the silly sayings my father revealed from his fraternity days at SAE. I miss my days as part of the Tiny Shiny Guild, but am happy pursuing my new life as a jeweler and commission portrait artist in Waitsfield, Vermont.

OLIVIA PEVEC
Carbondale, Colorado

Olivia Pevec is an artist of many media. She comes to silver through a background in steel and appreciates the less noisy, dirty, and heavy material. She has loved working tiny her whole life and is delighted to return to small scale work. Now in her 40s, all of Olivia's creative attention is directed at processing a midlife crisis. She does this by honoring the things she loved as a child, expressing playfulness, loss and a deepening love for all of life. The works in this show are memorials to some of the most impactful beloveds of her life.



MARIE QUINN
Carbondale, Colorado

I lived in several countries as a child, and this informed my development as an artist. When searching for internal images with which to work I am bombarded by memories: the henna tattooed hands and feet of my mother's helper, mosaic floors in Roman ruins, strange animals in their native habitats, a silver talisman knotted into a baby's hair, stone covered beaches, and tiny persons standing at my height. The grist of these images and experiences have been recreated as sculptures of whimsy and exaggeration.



STAN RUTHER
Carbondale, Colorado

The pursuit of artistic endeavors has always been part of my life. Art classes were the only relief to the drudgery of school. Double bachelor's degree in civil engineering and design drafting technology. Creative endeavors expelled in construction. High end Aspen remodel start-to-finish all tools all trades -then the great recession of '09 changed all of that- it was a time to repurpose my tools "Aah! That job shack will make the perfect jewelry lab." My special thanks to Natasha for tolerating my unconventional out-of-the-box approach to class projects.



DREW SORENSON
Carbondale, Colorado

Drew grew up in Vermont and was able to get an early introduction to jewelry making through an amazing high school program. After moving to Carbondale eight years ago, he has been able to get introduced to some of the local classes and jewelers of the area. He enjoys running, biking, paddling, and all along the way looking for items and inspiration for jewelry pieces.



MORGAN WALSH
Snowmass, Colorado

Morgan Walsh learned metalsmithing under the brilliant tutelage of Natasha Seedorf. With a great interest in the Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods, her work focuses on the natural world and geometric shapes. She uses recycled metal and old pieces of jewelry whenever possible and works with non-toxic chemicals and hand tools. The gemstones come from non-conflict areas and are natural.



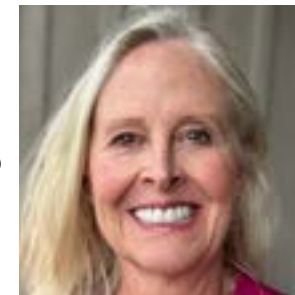
JULIE WILLE
Basalt, Colorado

I am a dabbler in many art mediums and a master of none... yet. Currently, I am creating jewelry as it relates to my life. My art is a compilation of artifacts gathered from my personal experiences: an aspen twig from a hike on Sunnyside Trail, a rock from the bottom of the Grand Canyon, and an image of sunlight on a frozen mountain ridge. Each piece holds a place in my heart.



GEORGINE YOUNG
Carbondale, Colorado

As a metalsmith, I am particularly drawn to experimenting with textures and patinas, and love exploring how silver, copper, and bronze respond to fire and hammers. Sand and broom casting offer an opportunity to melt scraps into art and I'm just beginning to integrate this into my work. My jewelry designs are organic, usually stemming from a desire to apply a new skill or try a new tool. I often find myself incorporating flowers, plants, or hearts to bring the metal to life.



When I branched into making spoons, my quest for handle designs first led me to feature fold formed copper in unexpected ways. The result has been a collection of art spoons designed to add fun to the functionality of an everyday object.

SHAUNA YOUNG
Carbondale, Colorado

I started making jewelry because I had to do something with all my rocks. I quickly realized I loved melting, pounding and working with metals. It is just so fun!!!



About Carbondale Arts

Founded in 1974, Carbondale Arts builds an inclusive and vibrant community through the arts, supporting Carbondale's identity as a place that fosters creativity, collaboration, innovation, and artistic exploration.

Our dedication to this mission has been transformational to the history of Carbondale. We are made possible by volunteers, the generosity of our sponsors and community partners, collaborations with fellow non-profits, schools, local and state governments, and businesses.

Know Your Artist, Know Your Art

Carbondale Arts believes in the power of art and we know you do, too. There is a deep connection that happens when you purchase a piece of art, and getting to know the artist makes that connection even deeper. Carbondale Arts hosts over 10 art exhibitions every year. Find some art you love and dive in.

Gallery Committee Members

Staff: Jamie Abbott, Brian Colley, Staci Dickerson

Non-staff: Savanna LaBauve (chair), Leslie Neveu, Marilyn Lowey, Nichole O'Neil, Sally Nicholson, Elliot Norquist, Laura Stover, and Matt Vickers

Learn more about this exhibition and visit the space virtually online at carbondalearts.com/exhibitions



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