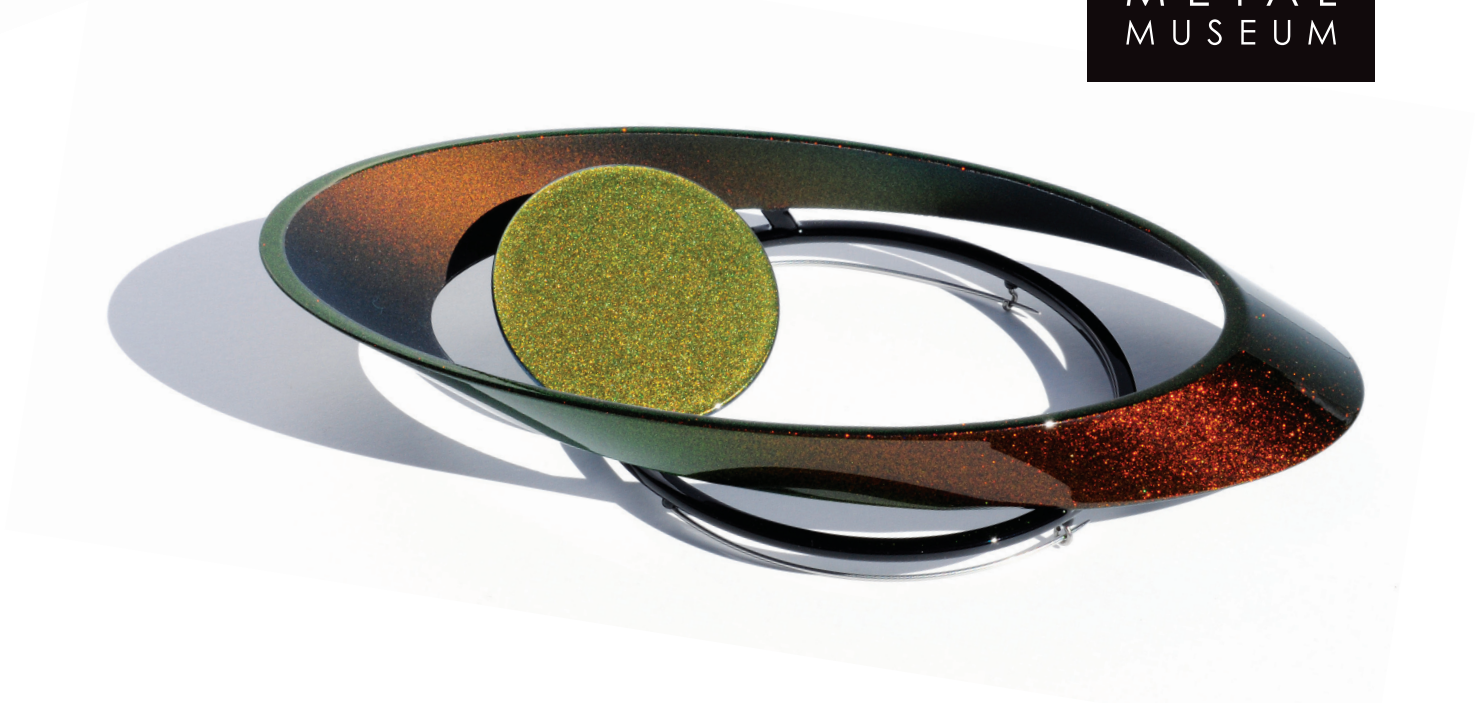


annual report 2023

METAL
MUSEUM



OUR MISSION

To preserve, promote,
and advance the
art and craft of fine
metalwork.

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& Executive Director
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Cover Images:

Rachelle Thiewes, *Various Artworks*. Photos courtesy of the artist.

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Letter from the Board President



I will begin my “Letter from the President” by thanking our outgoing President, Bryan Smith. Bryan has guided this Museum through our upcoming expansion to Rust Hall, negotiations with the City of Memphis, a rewrite of the Museum’s bylaws and COVID! Bryan, we greatly appreciate your unwavering support and advancement of the mission of the Museum.

In 2023 we saw continued growth in many of the programs offered by the Museum. The Education & Outreach Department partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis and Juice Plus+ Technical Training Center to restart the award-winning youth program, Forging the Future. The reimaged program is a learn-and-earn after-school program and summer camp that brings metalsmithing to Title I school students, ages 11–18. In addition to the after-school program, our Education & Outreach and Metals Studios teams welcomed over 200 class attendees in the Studios, gave more than 1,200 individuals tours, and held outreach events that reached 2,000 participants. This year, through generous donors, the Museum was able to offer 8 students scholarships to attend the Foundry Invitational and River Exhibition Conference.

Our Collections Committee and Collections & Exhibitions department have been quite active this year, adding 152 pieces to the permanent collection. Among many generous gifts were 100 carefully selected enamelworks donated by the Enamel Arts Foundation (Los Angeles, CA). In addition to the donation of artwork, the Museum was the recipient of an incredibly generous gift of a fully equipped enamel studio by the late Martha Banyas. These two donations are a game changer for the Museum, as they set the tone for our expansion into Rust Hall and speak to our dedication to the preservation and advancement of the enamel arts. The team has also been preparing for the move to Rust Hall by inventorying, photographing, and indexing our collection thanks to the generosity of the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant we received and with help from interns from the Studio Institute in New York and the City of Memphis’s MPLOY YOUTH Program.

Thank you to all of you who helped to expand our growing collection of metalwork and to those who have made the above programs possible.

Cheers to 2024,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Aycock".

Dr. Richard Aycock
President, Board of Directors

Letter from the Executive Director



You will know you have not been to the Metal Museum recently if you haven’t had to follow the detour signs snaking around construction and through back roads. Construction on I-55 officially closed our beloved “Exit 12C to Metal Museum Drive” – forever. The history of the exit sign captures the “little engine that could” spirit of the Museum. The founding director Jim Wallace, frustrated that the state would not install a sign for the Museum, came up with a clever solution. He petitioned the city to rename the street, and in the fall of 1995, the new exit sign was installed. While we are sad to have lost our exit, better things are coming. But for now, we are living through inconvenience and hope you will, too.

Despite the traffic challenges, nearly 20,000 people visited the Museum to see exhibitions, take classes and participate in events. Highlights from 2023 include the first retrospective exhibition by acclaimed enamelist Bill Helwig; “Reimaging the Real” featuring the art of Ana M. Lopez and Natalie Macellaio; the juried exhibition “We Are Here” highlighting metalsmiths from the LBGTQIA+ community; an exhibition of work by long-time Museum volunteer and talented blacksmith Richard Carr; and the playful, light- and color-filled jewelry of Master Metalsmith Rachelle Thiewes.

Through the generosity of individual donors, the Roger Carlsen Education Endowment, and the Society of Inclusive Blacksmiths (SIBS), the Museum is now offering a series of scholarships for classes and conferences. During this first year, we hosted one blacksmithing student through SIBS and 8 students at the annual casting conference. We also had a record number of paid and academic interns, ten in total spread across four departments.

We are looking forward to a great new year and hope you will brave the construction to see *Branching Out, Bracelets!*, and the 2024 Master Metalsmith Preston Jackson and new acquisitions; to take a class or two; and to join us for any number of the upcoming events we have planned.

Of course, all of this, and more, is made possible by you—our donors, members, and volunteers. Thank you for 45 years of metal arts and for another 45 to come.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carissa Husson".

Carissa Husson
Executive Director

exhibitions



Harold B. "Bill" Helwig, *Untitled Plate*, 19XX. Enamel, copper.

Extending the Potential: The Art and Techniques of Bill Helwig

FEBRUARY 19 – MAY 21

Curated by Sarah Perkins

Harold B. "Bill" Helwig initially focused on watercolor but would change direction when he first encountered enameling in 1959. Helwig taught himself the art of enameling using trial and error, with *Enameling Principles and Practice* by Kenneth Bates as his guide. Experimenting with enamel would become a lifelong passion for Helwig.

Helwig became the Assistant Director of the Creative Craft Center at the State University of New York, Buffalo in 1964. In 1977, he accepted a job as the Head of the Vitrearc Division at the Ceramic Coating Company (Newport, KY). He stayed with the company, which later acquired Thompson Enamel, until 1985. Throughout his life, Helwig taught classes and workshops at SUNY Buffalo (Buffalo, NY), Penland School of Craft (Bakersville, NC), Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts (Gatlinburg, TN), and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts (Deer Isle, ME).

In 1982, Helwig cofounded *Glass on Metal Magazine* and served as the magazine's first editor. Helwig served on the board of the Enamelist Society from 1991 to 1998 and was the recipient of the Society's Creative Arts Award in 2001. As an active member of the American Craft Council (ACC), Helwig chaired the Northeastern Regional Chapter Craft Fair (Bennington, VT) and organized a larger ACC fair in Baltimore in 1977.

A tribute to both Helwig's art and passion for experimentation, this exhibit explored the breadth and mastery of Helwig's techniques while detailing the processes behind the art. Pieces from private collections and the Helwig Estate are featured alongside contemporary artists utilizing the same techniques, revealing the vast potential of enamel arts.



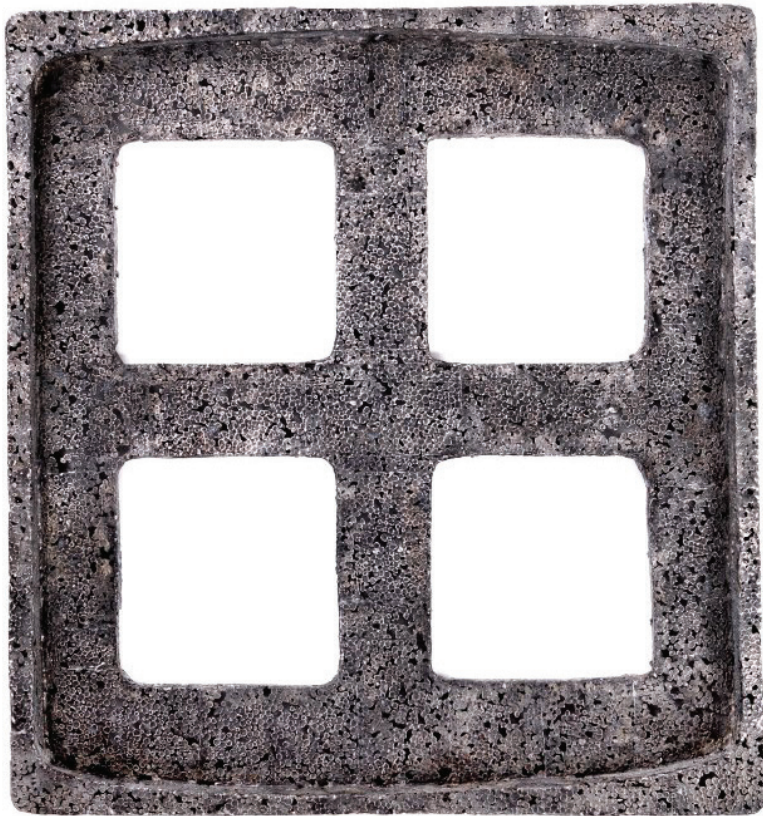
Exhibition curator
Sarah Perkins.



Martha Banyas, *Honoring the Masters - Bill Helwig*, 2013. Enamel, copper, silver.
Photo courtesy of the Artist.

Below: Venetia Dale, *Between: Styrofoam Inserts (Deep Freezer)*, 2018. Cast pewter. Gift of the Artist. 2018.31.1.

Right: Danielle Attoe, *In the Window*, 2021. Silver, brass. Courtesy of the Artist.



Space Within: Pieces from the Permanent Collection

FEBRUARY 5 – APRIL 16

The permanent collection at the Metal Museum focuses on artists and artworks from the post-Craft Revival period, from the 1970s to present. To date, the Metal Museum has collected over 2,000 individual pieces of art from hundreds of different artists from around the world.

Curated by Collections & Exhibitions staff, *Space Within* explored the versatility of metal and variety of forms present in the Museum's permanent collection. Long-held pieces were exhibited alongside recent acquisitions to give a more holistic view of the Museum's holdings.



We Are Here: LGBTQIA+ Voices in the Contemporary Metals Community

JUNE 4 – SEPTEMBER 10

**Guest Jurors: matt lambert,
Al Murray, Lawrence Matthews**

For centuries, queer voices have been excluded from conversations surrounding culture, politics, and art despite their physical presence in these different spheres. Although progress has been made, individuals in the LGBTQIA+ communities struggle to have their identities and experiences acknowledged. *We Are Here* seeks to correct this disparity by elevating and celebrating contemporary LGBTQIA+ voices working in the metal arts community today.

Jurors matt lambert, Al Murray, and Lawrence Matthews worked to select forty works of art from twenty-six metal artists across the country. Together, these pieces forge a fuller narrative of the metal arts community.

FEATURED ARTISTS: Adam Atkinson, Danielle Attoe, SULO BEE, Funlola Coker, Leslie D. Boyd, Corey Drew, Joy Fire, Everett Hoffman, Elsa Hoffman, Andrew Kuebeck, Andy Lowrie, Jae Mancarella, Liz Markum, Wyatt Nestor-Pasicznyk, Jacob Phillips, Hannah Reynoso Toussaint, Hosanna Rubio, Danielle Shum, Savannah Smith, J Taran Diamond, Robert Thomas Mullen, Andrew Thornton, Kevin Vanek, Vinny Verburg, Mallory Weston, Elliot Winter Papp



Everett Hoffman,
thinking of you, 2022.
Bronze, vintage
rhinestones, light fittings.
Photo courtesy of
Loam Marketing.



Artist Talks and Programs

Master Metalsmith:
Lynda Watson | Looking Back
Artist Talk (virtual)
January 22

Extending the Potential: The Art and Techniques of Bill Helwig
Members' Curator Gallery Talk with Sarah Perkins and Opening Reception
March 5

Reimagining the Real:
Ana M. Lopez & Natalie Macellaio
Exhibition Reception and Artist Talks
April 23

We Are Here: LGBTQIA+ Voices in the Contemporary Metals Community
Opening Reception and Artists Talks
June 4

Virtual Juror and Artists Talks
July 9

New Accessions to the Permanent Collection: 2022
Members-only Brunch
June 17

To See with New Eyes, Richard Carr
Opening Reception and Artist Talk
July 16

Master Metalsmith:
Rachelle Thiewes | HUED
Cars, Cocktails, and Conversations with AutoZone
September 19

Cars, Cocktails, and Conversations: Members Only
September 21

Artist Talks during Repair Days
October 19 & 21

Artist Talk with Repair Days Volunteers
October 20

New Accessions to the Permanent Collection: 2023
Members-only Brunch
November 17



Reimagining the Real: Ana M. Lopez and Natalie Macellaio

APRIL 23 – JULY 9

Ana Lopez's work takes the ubiquitous forms of artificial air handling that populate many rooftops and walls and transforms them into garnitures. Lopez's rooftop forms-turned-garnitures invite viewers to reflect upon the West's atmospheric colonization of the global climate. Natalie Macellaio focuses on the construction and deconstruction of the environment at the hands of humankind. Like the signs at a construction site, Macellaio's pieces ask viewers to stop and consider the patterns and debris of modern development.

Memphis in May: Malaysia

MAY 1 – MAY 31

For Memphis in May 2023, the Metal Museum displayed a selection of works on loan from the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM). Located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia the IAMM has expanded greatly over its 25 years to cover the different periods, geography, and artistic traditions of the Islamic world. The exhibition featured selected works from IAMM's Islamic metalwork collection showing various decorative techniques such as embossing, engraving, inlaying, and gilding, typifying the rich repertoire of decorative patterns in Islamic metalwork.

LENDING INSTITUTION: Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia

To see with new eyes, Richard Carr

JULY 16 – SEPTEMBER 24

Richard Carr is an inspired craftsman with over forty years of experience in an industrial setting. His love for architecture and organic forms, along with his experiences and observations are reflected in his work. Richard utilizes aged, textured materials including iron, stone, and wood, which he often salvages from sites throughout Downtown Memphis. *To see with new eyes, Richard Carr* brings into focus the stories that salvaged materials share by providing viewers a glimpse into the piece's soul.

LENDERS: Mike Bondi, Nancy and Bob Campbell, Tim and Kris Carr, Jim Masterson, Angela McArthur, Jason Roberts, TK Schlemm, Teresa Flowers Strickland, Mike Talbot, James Viste



Richard Carr, *Pteridium aquilinum Var Ellis Auditorius*, 2014. Salvaged Ellis Auditorium Steel. Courtesy of the Estate of Jim Strickland.

Richard Carr
American, born 1959
Oak Leaf Bowl, 2007
Salvaged steel from water tower
Courtesy of the Artist

Accessions to the Permanent Collection

2022

JUNE 11 – NOVEMBER 12

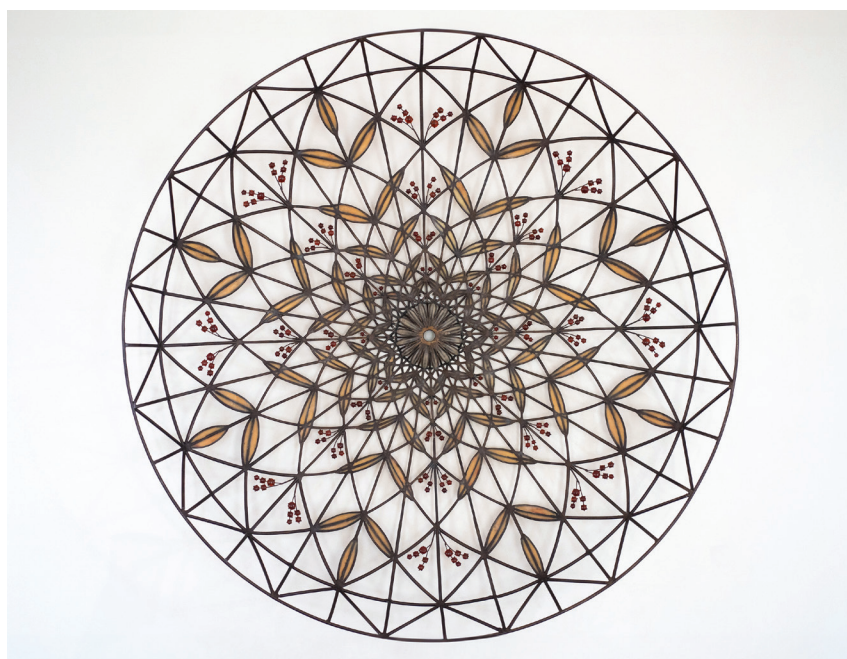
2023

NOVEMBER 18 – APRIL 20, 2024

The Accessions series honors new additions to the permanent collection throughout each calendar year. The Metal Museum welcomed twenty-four objects into the permanent collection in the 2022 calendar year. In 2023, the Metal Museum received over 140 objects as donations, and purchased an additional 8 pieces with the support of the Collections Endowments and Windgate Living Artist Fund. These pieces range in technique, scale, materials, and date—from five large examples of blacksmithing that hang from the ceiling to palm-sized enamel and jewelry examples—and everything in between.

Kim Cridler, *Shallow Bowl with Rowan Pome*, 2011. Steel, carnelian, beeswax. Gift of Karen Hutcheson.

Glenn Bodnar, *Serpent Brooch*, 1982. 14 k gold 14k white gold, diamond, pink pearl, blue covellite. Gift of Danny M. Donovan-Wilhelmi.



master metalsmith

The Master Metalsmith series began in 1983 as a way for the Metal Museum to honor the most influential metal artists of the day. In the years since its inception, it has brought the work of more than 30 internationally acclaimed metalsmiths to Memphis for solo exhibitions.

Master Metalsmith: Rachelle Thiewes | HUED

OCTOBER 3 – JANUARY 28, 2024

Rachelle Thiewes is an artist based in the Chihuahuan desert of West Texas, where she creates jewelry that is designed to engage and challenge the wearer, making them an active participant.

Thiewes has been living in the El Paso area for close to forty years, and her time there has inspired much of her work. The mountainous desert, the blistering sun, the Lowrider car culture – all have awakened her senses and become essential elements within her pieces. Much of Thiewes's early work contains forms like spiculums (sharp, spear-like shapes) and disks (smooth, rounded shapes) which she uses to comment on gender roles and assumptions. Through Thiewes's rhythmic structure of these gendered forms, she creates pieces that empower women, declaring that they will command every room they enter.

As her career progressed, Thiewes took these themes of feminism a step further through her use of movement, light, and color. Her work transitioned

from having movement and creating sound to having the appearance of movement and creating sound. These pieces also play with color and light in a different way from her previous works. The thriving Lowrider car culture in El Paso inspired Thiewes to dive head-first into the possibilities of color. Vibrant ochres, purples, chartreuses, and reds dominate her work now, with each piece's color being carefully considered in various lights.

Rachelle Thiewes wants all who wear her jewelry to feel empowered and to feel like they are part of the piece's story. She believes the woman that wears her jewelry activates the unique, eye-catching qualities of the pieces, through her own strength and character. Without the woman, her pieces are only at half their potential.

LENDERS:

Eliana Arenas, Julia Barelllo, Cindy Bernat, Suzi Davidoff, Anne Davis, Nicole Des Champs-Benke, El Paso Museum of Art, Marion Fulk, Laura Hayes, Museum of Art and Design, Beverly Penn



Rachelle Thiewes,
Heat, 2011.
Steel, silver, stainless
steel, auto paint.
Courtesy of the Artist.



All artwork images this page:
Rachelle Thiewes, *Shimmer*, 2004.
Silver, 18k palladium white.
Courtesy of the Artist.



EXHIBITION CATALOG:
*Master Metalsmith:
Rachelle Thiewes | Hued*

Text by Marjorie Simon and Kate Bonansinga.
Designed by Antonio Castro H.

metals studios

A close-up photograph of a dark, possibly black-painted, metal handrail. The handrail is made of a thick, rounded bar. It curves downwards and then back up to form a large, open loop. At the end of this loop, there is a decorative termination element: a smaller, cylindrical piece of metal that has been rolled into a tight, multi-layered spiral, resembling a scroll or a stylized 'S' shape. The background is a warm, out-of-focus wooden surface, likely a floor or a wall, with diagonal lines of wood grain.

commissions

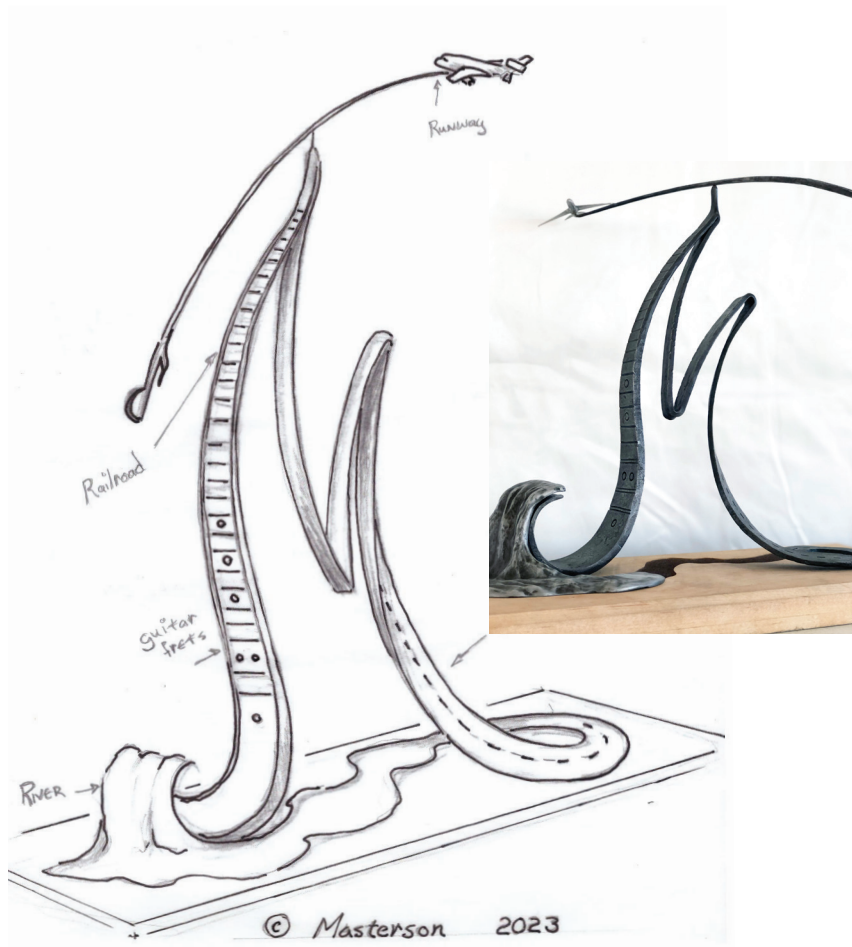
Calvary Church Handrails

STEEL

55 LINEAR FEET OF HANDRAIL

Designed by Jim Masterson,
Director of Metals Studios

The historic Calvary Church sent a request to the Metal Studios team to design simple but elegant handrails for the main entry of their church. Under the direction of the Director of Metal Studios, Jim Masterson, MSW Ornamental Fabricators crafted the outer rails while the Metals Studios staff, apprentices, and interns created the ornamental elements of the handrails such as the custom scrolled lamb's tongue terminations.



Chamber of Commerce Award

FORGED STEEL, CAST ALUMINUM,
LASER BURNED WOOD, CAST AND
FABRICATED PEWTER
72" X 85"

Designed by Jim Masterson,
Director of Metals Studios

The 2023 Chamber of Commerce award features a dynamic design integrating the "4R's" related to local commerce: River, Road, Rail, and Runway. Guitar frets symbolically represent the roadway, while a music note serves as a counterbalance to an airplane. The music note and airplane are balanced on a fulcrum that will move and spin if pushed.



A C Wharton Greenline Sculpture

STEEL, LASER CUT CORTEN STEEL, LASER CUT
BRONZE AND CAST BRONZE
84" X 34"

Designed by Savannah Smith, Foundry Apprentice

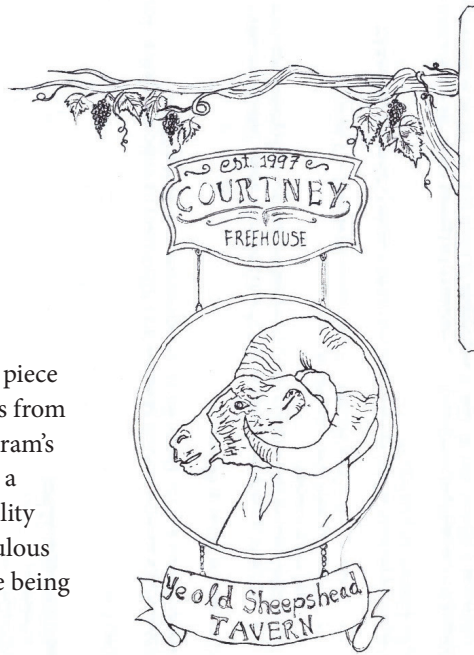
During his tenure as Shelby County Mayor, A C Wharton, Jr. was instrumental in the acquisition and subsequent development of the abandoned rail line that would become the Shelby Farms Greenline. The bronze bust was designed by Savannah Smith, Foundry Apprentice, in commemoration of A C Wharton and the development of the Greenline. The background of the bust was crafted from corten steel and is adorned with waterjet-cut brass figures and a cast bronze plaque. The artwork was installed at the starting point of the Greenline in October.

Pub Sign

FORGED STEEL, CAST ALUMINUM
34" X 19"

Designed by Jake Brown,
Lead Blacksmith

Inspired by a traditional English pub signs, this piece incorporates multiple metalsmithing techniques from the hand-forged leaves to the aluminum casted ram's head. The words on the sign are raised to create a three dimensional aesthetic. Designed for visibility from two directions, the sign underwent meticulous hand-painting and patination techniques before being treated with tung oil for interior installation.



Fireplace Wall Sculpture

BALTIC BIRCH, MILD STEEL PLATE
96" X 43"

Designed by Ian Skinner,
Blacksmithing Apprentice

Inspired by the depiction of topographic maps, Ian Skinner's design features a prominent river motif running across an arrangement of concentric wood and metal forms, cut and mounted in succession. Gradually diminishing in size as they extend outward from the wall, the wooden components underwent CNC routing, sanding, and staining, while the metal counterparts were laser-cut and patinated using a combination of white vinegar and gun bluing. The entirety of the piece is finished with tung oil.



Fire Screen

FORGED AND FABRICATED STEEL, STAINLESS STEEL SCREEN
77" X 41"

Designed by Ian Skinner,
Blacksmithing Apprentice

Crafted for a residence in North Carolina, this piece was conceptualized by Ian Skinner. It was forged by apprentices Ian Skinner and Mak Henriksen, under the guidance of Jake Brown, Lead Blacksmith, and Jim Masterson Director of Metals Studios. Following installation, the client remarked, "I cannot tell you how much I love this piece and I am so proud to own it."





KOWA Awards

CAST ALUMINUM, CAST BRONZE, LASER
BURNED WOOD, ENAMELED COPPER
6" X 6"

Designed by James Vanderpool,
Foundry Operations Manager

The KOWA event is hosted in varying cities annually. In 2023, the event, themed "Rise to the Challenge," was held in Phoenix, AZ. A total of 55 awards were crafted for the occasion.



Patio Porker Awards

CAST BRONZE, CAST ALUMINUM,
ENAMELED COPPER
12" X 12"

Designed by James Vanderpool,
Foundry Operations Manager

The best of the backyard barbecues is determined at the Patio Porkers Barbecue Contest on Beale Street. James Vanderpool, Foundry Operations Manager, designed cast bronze trivets, embellished with copper enameled flames and pigs, to serve as the first and second place awards. Anthony George II, Preparator, skillfully crafted cutting boards for the third, fourth, and fifth place recipients that were laser burned at the design lab of the Studios with the Patio Porkers logo.

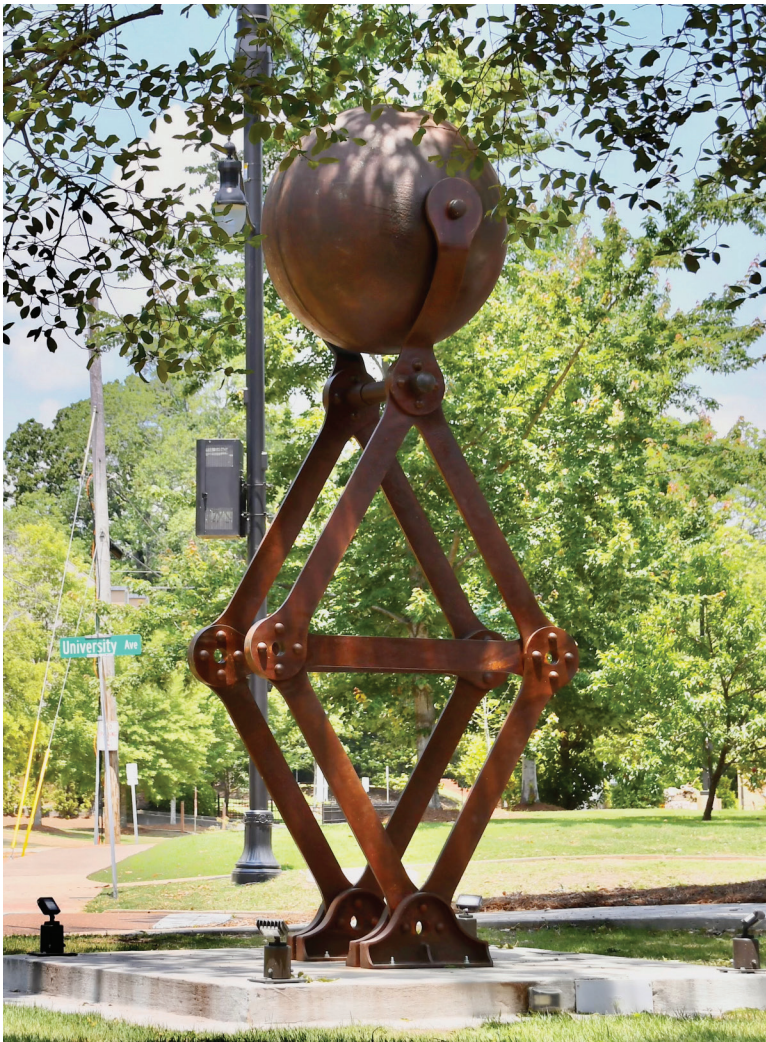


Repairs + Restorations

by Kevin Burge, Repair and Restoration Specialist

2023's repair and restoration projects included everything from repairing lamps to recreating the base of iron statues to polishing away thumbprints in a copper tub. One of the most interesting repairs was the re-creation of the feet on the base of a sculpture at the historic First Presbyterian Church.

apprentices



Ian Skinner

BLACKSMITHING APPRENTICE 2021–2023

Ian completed his MFA at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS in 2021. To further his growth in metalworking, he joined the Metal Museum as the Blacksmithing Apprentice from 2021 to 2023. Throughout his apprenticeship, Ian undertook various projects, including the fabrication of the Memphis City Seal and the creation of the “Luna” sculpture for the Memphis Botanic Garden. He also assumed responsibility for organizing the blacksmith shop and actively participated in all blacksmithing and casting events. In his second year, Ian engaged in conceptual design work and liaised with clients. Presently, he serves as the Foundry Manager at SLOSS Metal Arts in Birmingham, AL.



Savannah Smith, *I Hope Your flowers Bloom*, 2023.
Bronze, gold leaf, acrylic paint.

Savannah Smith

FOUNDRY APPRENTICE 2021–2023

Savannah Smith began casting through the SLOSS Metal Arts Program (Birmingham, AL) in high school, and since earned a BFA with a concentration in sculpture from University of Montevallo (Montevallo, AL). During her apprenticeship she created, developed, and taught casting classes, helped with demonstrations and outreach, maintained the Lawler Foundry, and created work in her personal time. She represented the Metal Museum at the International Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron in Berlin and the National Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron Arts and Practices at SLOSS Furnaces. She also contributed to client meetings and concept development for commissioned projects. Her concept was chosen for the A C Wharton project Greenline Sculpture. Now employed by the Lugar Foundry in Eads, TN, Savannah continues to volunteer and teach classes at the Metal Museum.

I Hope Your Flowers Bloom was created during her apprenticeship and has previously been on display at the national conference on Cast Iron Art and Practices in Birmingham, AL and at the Metal Museum’s 2023 FIRE exhibition, and is now in the Museum’s Permanent Collection.



Mak Henriksen,
Just 3 lil sweetsies, 2023.
3 spoons ½ tsp, ¼ tsp, 1/8 tsp, Hand
forged mild steel, finished with beeswax
and coconut oil

Mak Henriksen

BLACKSMITHING APPRENTICE 2023–2025

Since 2019, Makena “Mak” Henriksen has been travelling as a journeyman blacksmith. During their first months at the Metal Museum, Mak fostered an open and inclusive atmosphere within the Metals Studios. Mak taught a class at Peters Valley School of Craft (Sandyston, NJ) titled “Beverage Utensils: Corkscrews, Barspoons, and More!” Additionally, they taught classes within the Smithy, took classes in the Foundry, and provided assistance in overseeing interns. Mak contributed significantly to various projects, including the crafting of numerous bottle openers for Repair Days and ARTSmemphis’ 60th anniversary celebration, in addition to collaborating on numerous commissions.



Gary Pergolini, *Waxing and Waning (Position 1)*, 2023.
Bronze, Copper, Birch.

Gary Pergolini

FOUNDRY APPRENTICE 2023–2025

Gary Pergolini earned his BFA degree from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (Philadelphia, PA). He began his apprenticeship immediately after the annual Foundry Invitational & River Exhibition. At the beginning of his apprenticeship, Gary was primarily involved in the creation of the A C Wharton Greenline Sculpture. This project included stages of sculpting the portrait in clay, followed by replication in wax, and ultimately casting it in bronze.

Using his background in construction and art foundry, Gary made valuable contributions during the installation of the accessibility ramp to the Main Museum building and played a pivotal role in the maintenance of equipment within the Foundry. He demonstrated his creative expertise by designing and fabricating the Repair Days commemorative light switch plate, drawing inspiration from the works of the Master Metalsmith for the respective year, Rachele Thiewes.

interns

Harrison Hickock

**BLACKSMITHING INTERN (PART TIME)
SPRING 2023**

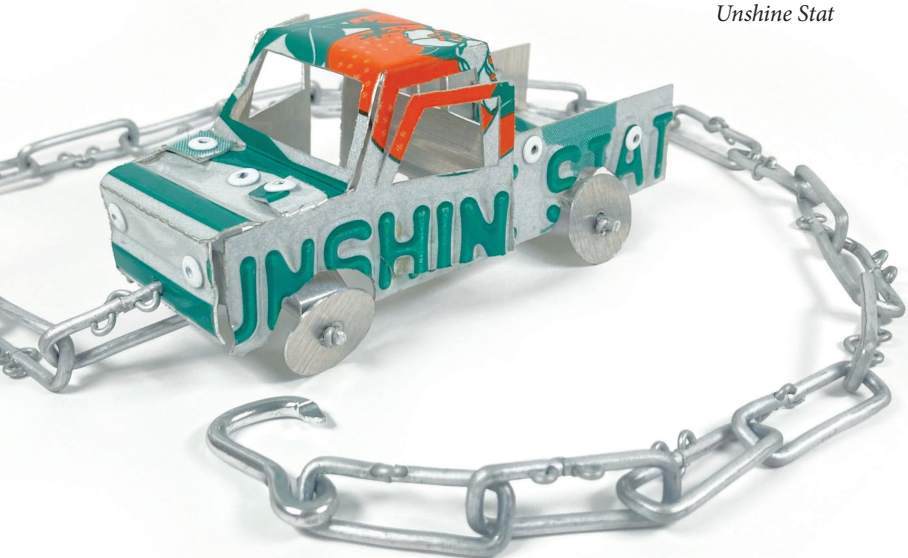
Throughout his spring internship, Harrison Hickock acquired foundational blacksmithing skills, crafted a forging hammer, and contributed to the creation of Harding Academy's "Multiply the Mission" donor recognition tree. Following his internship, Harrison continued his engagement by volunteering at various events, where he actively engaged with the public within the Metals Studios, and demonstrated forging techniques on Sundays.

Ambrose Devine

**REPAIR AND RESTORATION INTERN (FULL TIME)
SUMMER 2023**

Ambrose Devine attended Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, GA) and graduated with a BFA in Craft and Material Studies with an Art History minor from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU, Richmond VA). Ambrose was recommended to the program by VCU Associate Professor of Metals, Susie Ganch, who had a Tributaries exhibition at the Museum in 2014. Before starting, when asked "How can the Metal Museum help you achieve your goals?" he replied, "I see it as an opportunity to gain connections and friends. It would also expose me to more current metal art and artists. Working in a space surrounded with people passionate and enthusiastic about the art would be beneficial to the development of my artistic intent."

Ambrose Devine,
Unshine Stat



Jami Honey, *Offering Bowl*. Cast in "From Liquid Wax to Liquid Metal" class lead by former apprentice Savannah Smith

Jami Honey

**BLACKSMITHING INTERN (FULL TIME)
FALL 2023**

During her internship, Jami Honey assisted with projects like the Calvary Handrail, taught classes, networked at Repair Days, and ran demonstrations for the public. She also explored other programs offered by the Museum, including lost wax casting in the Foundry. After her internship, Jami temporarily joined the Collections & Exhibitions team to assist with work in the Library and Archives.

When asked "How can the Metal Museum help you achieve your goals?" she replied, "I am hoping that through your internship I will gain a deeper understanding of technique and process with metalwork, as well as enjoy working and learning in a safe, creative space with like-minded artists. It is my hope to trade on my eagerness to help enrich and expand your community of artists in whatever capacity is asked of me in exchange for the opportunity to explore the gaps in my education and experience, and work to fill them with the high-quality knowledge which the Museum is renowned for."

Niko Baranek

**REPAIR AND RESTORATION INTERN (PART TIME)
FALL 2023**

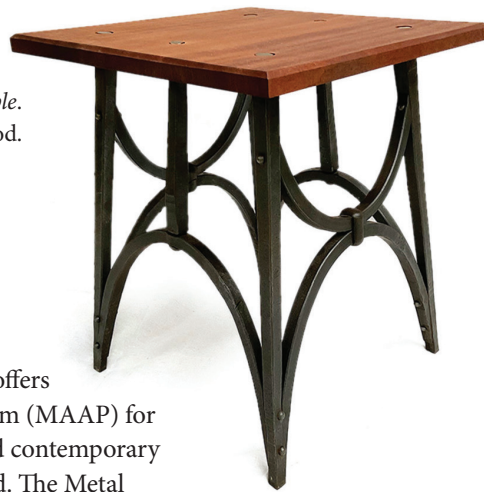
Currently enrolled at Rhodes College (Memphis, TN), Niko Baranek earned academic credit for her participation in the Metal Museum’s internship program. She provided assistance to Repairs and Restoration Specialist Kevin Burge in various repair-related activities, encompassing the setup of Repair Days and subsequent post-event repairs. Throughout her time with the Museum, Niko cultivated a range of skills, including low temperature soldering, silver soldering, dent removal, wax work and mold making, as well as resin sand and green sand mold making, alongside foundational fabrication skills.



Niko Baranek

Staff Special Projects

Dace Ruthven, *Table*.
Forged mild steel and wood.



**Jim Masterson
and Dace Ruthven**

In partnership with the Tennessee Arts Commission, Tennessee Craft offers the Master Artist Apprenticeship Program (MAAP) for young artists to learn traditional and contemporary craft skills from masters in their field. The Metal Museum’s Director of Metals Studios, Jim Masterson, was selected as a master artist for the program. An industrial welder turned backyard blacksmith, Dace Ruthven was awarded an apprenticeship through MAAP. For six months, Jim served as Dace’s mentor, guiding him through the process of crafting a table. Initially, they forged essential tools such as hammers, tongs, and chisels. Starting with conceptualization and iteration, the construction phase then involved the utilization of a jig, cold joinery, forge welding, and mortise and tenon techniques employed for assembly. The culmination of the project was a virtual artist talk, facilitated by Tennessee Craft and the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Jake Brown

The Urban Arts Commission manages the City of Memphis’s collection of local art, displayed on a rotating basis in libraries, universities, park facilities, City Hall, and the airport.

Jake’s piece was acquired for the “Movable Collection” in August 2023

Jake Brown, *Forged Impasto Vessel*.
Hand forged from Mild Steel.



education



Education

The Education & Outreach department expanded its exciting Make Your Own classes and developed new hands-on activities for tours. Guest instructor Cathy Talbot taught a dynamic enameling class in the spring. The department went into the community, offering hands-on activities for those aged 4 to 90. Over the summer, Museum Educator Connor Dyer offered three Chasing and Repoussé Copper Tile workshops for the Arlington Senior Center's Lifelong Learning program. The Education team visited Discovery Learning Academy in the fall to teach young students how to make sculptures and monoprints with aluminum foil.

Gold Tours

The Metal Museum welcomed visitors from across the globe who were excited to learn about the rich history of the Museum and for the chance to create a lasting memory of their time spent here. After touring current exhibitions and the sculpture garden, guests had the opportunity to craft a stamped copper cuff bracelet, an intricately-layered copper rose, an embossed copper tile, or an aluminum art tile masterpiece. Visitors also had the chance to experience engaging demonstrations in the Museum's foundry and blacksmith studios.



Metals Studios Classes

In 2023 the Metal Museum offered numerous beginner, intermediate, and advanced studio classes for youth and adults. Classes ranged from half-day workshops to immersive three-day welding, forging, casting, and enameling classes. Students unleashed their creativity and forged a connection with the world of metalsmithing. Upon completing each class, students departed with memorable, handmade artworks and a wealth of metalsmithing expertise.

2023 STUDIO CLASSES:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <i>Blacksmithing I</i> | <i>Tool Making/
Hammer Making</i> |
| <i>Door Knockers</i> | <i>Tasters</i> (Blacksmithing,
Welding, Enameling,
and Casting) |
| <i>Fantastic Creatures</i> | <i>Liquid Wax to
Liquid Metal</i> |
| <i>MIG Welding:
Scrap Welding</i> | <i>Introduction to
Enameling</i> |
| <i>MIG Welding I</i> | <i>Cast Pewter Rings</i> |
| <i>Blacksmithing II</i> | <i>Dapped Bottle Caps</i> |
| <i>Bookends</i> | <i>Aluminum Cats</i> |
| <i>Color on Metal
with Cathy Talbot</i> | <i>Hummingbird Perches</i> |
| <i>Bird Feeders</i> | <i>Open Studio</i> |
| <i>Future Fossils</i> | |
| <i>Foundry Bouquets</i> | |

Education Internships

University of Memphis senior Trinity Walker interned in the Education & Outreach department from March to July 2023. During her time at the Metal Museum, Trinity developed activities for Make Your Own classes, Whet Thursdays, and other events. She assisted with tour groups, outreach, and organizing the education supplies.

In the fall, Briana Harroz interned at the Metal Museum in the Education & Outreach and Collections & Exhibitions departments. Briana was an invaluable help in reorganizing the visible storage space and writing a new tour script for the Museum's permanent collection. Briana received her Museum Studies Graduate Certificate at the University of Memphis in December, and she accepted a full time position at the Metal Museum as the Exhibitions Manager in the Department of Collections & Exhibitions.

Outreach

Contemporary Arts Memphis (CAM)

Dr. Lucienne Auz taught global art history courses to high school students attending CAM's summer camp in June 2023. This camp provides opportunities for students from underrepresented communities to attend classes to expand their interest in the arts. These classes are intended, in part, to help students appreciate the art they will experience at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art when they visit New York City at the end of the camp program.

Mini Mobile Metal Museum (M4)

The M4 embarked on its annual visit to the Pink Palace Crafts Fair in September, spreading enthusiasm for metal craftsmanship to visitors across the region. Attendees had the opportunity to witness live blacksmithing and foundry demonstrations. Museum staff were on hand to discuss upcoming Museum activities, exhibitions, and class offerings. Our younger visitors made butterfly rings from pipe cleaners and honed their forging skills with aluminum foil at our mini anvils.

Forging the Future

The Metal Museum's youth initiative program, Forging the Future, resumed in Spring 2023 in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis. Forging the Future is an afterschool program in connection with Title I schools in Shelby County. Students aged 12–18 learn basic small metals techniques and entrepreneurship skills through instruction and guidance from Metal Museum staff.

Upon completing the program, students learn how to create, price, and sell their work. They also learn how to arrange their work for viewing in an exhibition at the Museum. The short-term goal is to increase confidence by teaching young students business and technical skills while introducing them to nontraditional career options. The long-term goal is to cultivate talented metal artists at the local level who will have the opportunity to become future artists and entrepreneurs.

Outreach Events

Monoprinting Workshop at Hope House
12 participants

University of Memphis Central to the Arts Festival
200 participants

Monoprinting Workshop at Su Casa
40 participants

Forging the Future at Westwood High School
12 participants

Art history lectures delivered to Contemporary Arts Memphis students at the University of Memphis
30 participants

Forging the Future at Booker T. Washington Middle and High School
12 participants

Chasing and Repousse Copper Tiles Workshop for Arlington Senior Center
22 participants

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society Lecture
30 participants

Mississippi Homeschool Life Fair
200 participants

MSCS Professional Development District Learning Day at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art
200 participants

Girl Scouts Heart of the South Totally Trefoil
1,000 participants

Pink Palace Crafts Fair
700 participants

Forging the Future at Juice+ Technical Training Center
30 participants

Discovery Learning Academy
30 participants

Friends of the Pink Palace Lecture
15 participants

Memphis Public Library Teen Arts Fest
250 participants

events

Family Fun Days

In May, at the 2023 Foundry Invitational & River Exhibition (F.I.R.E.) Conference, the Museum hosted an unforgettable Family Fun Day. Visitors enjoyed hands-on activities such as aluminum art tiles, wrapped wire washers, and clay press molds.

The air buzzed with the hum of creativity as families bonded while making unique, personalized artworks during the Repair Days Family Fun Day in October. Education offered activities such as aluminum art tiles, soldered silver rings, wrapped wire rings, and jangle bracelets inspired by the work of Master Metalsmith Rachelle Thiewes.

Whet Thursdays

Whet Thursday is a free after-hours event held at the Metal Museum on the last Thursday of each month from May through August. There were free and paid hands-on activities based on each unique theme. The Garden Party theme in May included the copper rose activity and stamped plant markers. Participants made enameled whale pendants for the Whale Watch theme in June and embossed nautical scenes. The '70s Thursday Night Fever theme in July featured groovy wire art and disco ball necklaces. For the Capital Campaign in August, participants made enameled pendants inspired by the work of Dorothy Sturm and created embossed images of Rust Hall. The final Whet Thursday invited Museum members to stamp copper images of Tennessee State and the shop cats, Mr. Fuller and Spatz.

Holiday Artist Market

The Metal Museum combined its annual Holiday Open House and Holiday Artist Market this December. Visitors were treated to an immersive experience as they strolled through the current exhibitions, sipped festive beverages, savored delectable treats, enjoyed live music, designed their own enameled and cast art tile ornaments, and watched demonstrations in the blacksmith shop and foundry. Local artisans and Museum staff offered an exclusive collection of handcrafted artworks for those seeking one of a kind holiday gifts.



F.I.R.E

The 7th annual Foundry Invitational & River Exhibition (F.I.R.E.) Conference is an intentionally small conference that allows for full immersion and special attention to each individual. The 58 participants from this year included 15 general conference artists, 8 scholarship students, 16 special workshop participants, 4 studio assistants, 1 guest furnace, 4 guest instructors, 5 program support staff, and 5 staff members. The five-day long conference started off on Wednesday with a special “Tiny Iron” workshop, led by workshop guest, Alison Ouellette-Kirby, where participants made jewelry-sized iron pieces. Throughout the week, conference attendees exhibited their work in the onsite River Exhibition and learned from Ouellette-Kirby during her artist talk. The week’s work culminated on Saturday when the conference attendees came together to pour 5,000lbs of iron into 8,000lbs of sand molds.

THANK YOU TO F.I.R.E. SPONSORS:

Frost Bake Shop

Huey’s Downtown

King Architectural Metals

nexAir

*Nothing Bundt Cakes
(Cordova)*

Rio Grande

South Point Grocery

repair days



THANK YOU TO CORPORATE SPONSORS:

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Midsouth Welding
Ornamental Fabricators, Inc.
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nexAir
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Peg Branyan
Gerald and Carolyn Grinstein
Russell and Margaret Kate Horton
Carissa Hussong and David Lusk
Don and Senia Hussong
Robert and Barbara Keeler
Doug and Fawn Learn
Franklin Paradox (F.P.) and
Nancy Lilly
Andrew MacDonald
Paige Porter
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Richard and Carol Crown Ranta
Killaurin O. Roberts
Douglas Seymour
Michael and Ann Spiotta
James Wallace and Mary Lee Hu
Jedediah Wallace

THANK YOU TO OUR STUDENT SPONSORS:

Deitra Blackwell
Frank and Sue Guarino
F.P. Lilly
Jim and Becca Prillaman
Bryan K. Smith
Carolyn Springfield-Harvey
Stacy Smith

Keeler Awards

The Keeler Awards were created in honor of the Keeler Family to recognize volunteers who play a critical role in making Repair Days possible.

George H. Keeler, Jr. (1918–2000) was one of the founding members of the Metal Museum and notably one of its greatest supporters throughout the years. He and his wife **Louise** (1927–2020) were part of the Museum before there was a museum—fixing the boiler, raking leaves, cleaning the grounds, installing and painting the fence, and building sawhorses that are still in use. As their business, Keeler Iron Works grew, so did their support. They instilled their love of the Metal Museum and commitment to volunteering in their sons, Clay, Rob, and Will, whose continued unwavering support of the Museum matches that of their parents.



Everything But Repairs

This award recognizes the volunteers who work behind the scenes to make the repairs possible. Will Keeler (Memphis, TN) has been volunteering at the Metal Museum since before it was a museum, which also means he has been part of Repair Days since the beginning. Despite being a successful metal fabricator, Will's contribution to Repair Days is as a cook! As part of the "Stew Crew," he spends all day Friday chopping, seasoning, and stirring dinner for the volunteers and then gets up early the next morning to fry bacon and scramble eggs. This labor of love results in two of the best meals of the weekend.

Wouldn't Be Repair Days Without You

Many of the volunteers who attend Repair Days have been returning for years – and Repair Days just wouldn't be the same without them. Adam Hawk (Milwaukee, WI) has been coming to Repair Days since 2004, if not earlier. He has attended as a student, a blacksmithing apprentice, and assistant professor for both the Memphis College of Art and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. This year he brought ten students from his program to Memphis to experience the magic of Repair Days, meet fellow metalsmiths from across the country, and learn from the experts. He promised to bring an even larger group next year!

Always Lending a Helping Hand

While Repair Days is the Museum's biggest fundraiser, there are opportunities to volunteer throughout the year. Moore Tech (Memphis, TN) is an independent, non-profit, post-secondary college that teaches the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a technical vocation. John Schimdt, Director of Industry Training, and Paige Porter, Department Head of Welding, not only bring welding students to Repair Days each year, but they also work with the Metals Studios staff throughout the year, machining parts for commissions, teaching welding to the apprentices, and bringing students to the Museum to see the exhibitions and learn about blacksmithing. The Museum is grateful for their continued partnership.

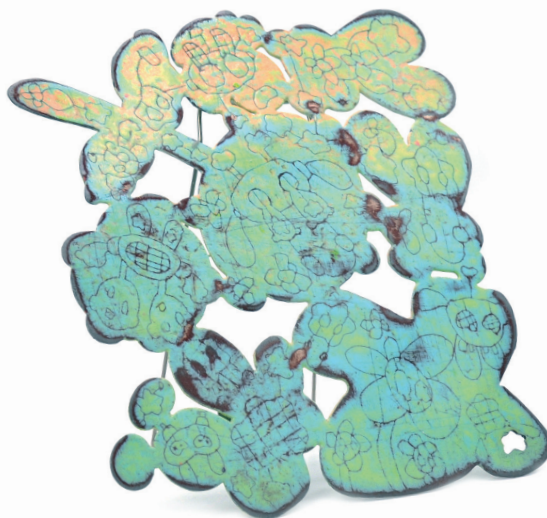
Most Awesome Repair

Every repair is special, but some are truly memorable. This year, the Most Awesome Repair was not only difficult, but it was also a first. Jo Bennett (Murray, KY) and Metalsmith Liz (Milwaukee, WI) repaired a metal blouse, constructed of tiny pieces held together with tabs and jump rings. Reassembly was like working a jigsaw puzzle from the back side! Because the rings were so tiny, they had to make new jump rings using a toothpick for a mandrel. One of the aspects of this award that makes it so special is that it can be won by a first-timer or an artist who has been attending for many years. This year's winners represent both. Bennett has been coming to Repair Days for almost a decade while this was Metalsmith Liz's first!

museum store

The Museum Store serves as a cornerstone in championing the future of the metalsmithing field by encouraging the public to collect work made by living artists.

From production pieces and functional objects to fine jewelry and unique sculptures, every item in the store reflects the creativity of talented artists from across the nation. Over the past year, the Museum Store has witnessed remarkable success—a destination for art enthusiasts to not only acquire beautiful pieces for their collections but also contribute to the preservation of this rich artistic tradition. With each purchase, patrons not only support the Metal Museum, but also play a vital role in nurturing and elevating the careers of the artists we all know and love.



“I am so excited to have my first collection from \$P4RKL3_FiLTH_CL0UD_NiNE in the Metal Museum Store. Now, others can experience the enchantment of this enigmatic realm and wear it, too!”

—SULO BEE



“The Metal Museum Store has supported me as an artist by increasing my exposure and finding new audiences for my work. Every purchase from the store directly supports the Museum and the artists alike.”

—CAROL BLUMTHAL

press

ABC 24

Metal Museum Plans \$25M Expansion

May 16, 2023

Memphis Magazine

"We Are Here" Opening Reception

& Artist Talk

June 1, 2023

WMC-TV

Metal Museum Expansion into

Overton Park

May 22, 2023

CERF+

(Craft Emergency Relief Fund)

Celebrating LGBTQIA+ voices through

"We Are Here" artwork

June 10, 2023

Daily Memphian

To see with new eyes, Richard Carr

Opening Reception

July 13, 2023

Memphis Magazine

(City Guide 2023):

Metal Move: Overton Park's Rust Hall is due for a

Metal Museum makeover

August 16, 2023

Artdaily.com

Springfield Art Museum acquires enamel works by

Sarah Perkins

August 22, 2023

WKNO 91.1

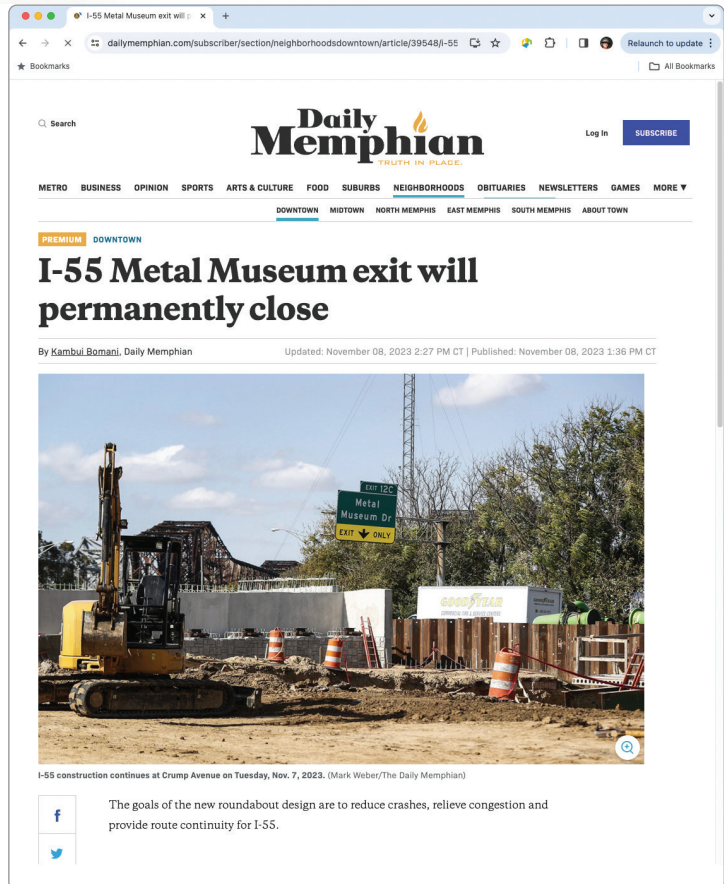
Metal Museum Expansion into Overton Park

October 11, 2023

Daily Memphian

I-55 Metal Museum exit to permanently close

November 9, 2023



new acquisitions

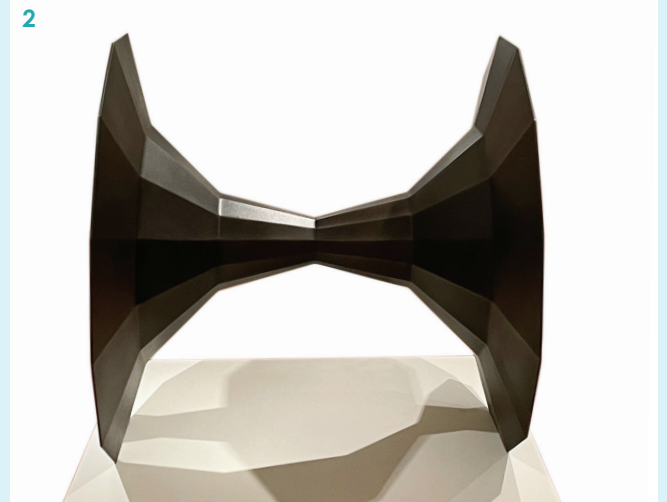
In the past year, the permanent collection has grown through the donation and purchase of one hundred and fifty-two new pieces. Of these, one hundred and twenty-six artists are new to the collection. To celebrate, a new exhibition series was created to spotlight the additions to the permanent collection, as well as the stories behind the objects and their acquisition. This past year, two iterations of this series focused on artwork collected during 2022 and 2023, respectively.



1



4



2



3



6



5

1 Kathleen Doyle and Tom Reardon

Cat House Brooch, ca. late 1980s.
Bronze, sterling silver, niobium.
Gift of David White. 2023.16.1

2 Thomas Campbell

Corollary II, 2022.
Blackened steel. Purchase funded by the
Windgate Acquisitions Endowment. 2023.3.2

3 Denise Wallace

Sea otter brooch with movable pup,
ca. 1990s.
Sterling silver, fossilized walrus ivory.
Anonymous Gift. 2023.23.2a-b

4 Funlola Coker

Igba II, 2023.
Copper (electroformed). Funded by the
Windgate Acquisitions Endowment.
Image courtesy of the artist. 2023.28.1.

5 Michael Jerry

Teapot, 2020
Pewter, nickel, silver, wood.
Gift of Michael Jerry. 2023.11.1.

6 Andrew Meers

Kitchen Knife, 2022.
Steel, silver, wood. Anonymous Gift.
2023.8.1.

Enamel Art at the Museum

2023's exhibition of the work and techniques of **Harold B. "Bill" Helwig** set the tone for important year for enamel art at the Metal Museum. This included the donation of two pieces from the Helwig Estate, as well as *Valley and Shadow* by Martha Banyas. This powerful twelve-panel series chronicled the artist's journey through cancer diagnosis, treatment, and recovery and is widely considered one of her most important works. In addition, Banyas bequeathed all studies, notes, and maquettes from the series and, quite generously, her enamel studio tools and supplies. These materials will serve as the seed for what will become the **Martha Banyas Enamel Studio** in our new space in Overton Park.

In the fall, the **Enamel Arts Foundation** donated 100 pieces of enamel art from their own incredible collection. The works span from 1950s examples by Arthur and Jean Ames to contemporary pieces by artists such as Kat Cole and Zachary Lechtenberg. Among the 100 pieces, one finds key examples of technical mastery, and an emotional range from somber to humorous.

Collectively, the series of donations and exhibitions dedicated to enamel art point to our sustained growth in becoming an important center for enamel arts.



8



9



7



10

7 Harold B. "Bill" Helwig
Red Sea, She Said, ca. 1980.
Enamel, copper, steel, wood.
Gift of the Helwig Estate.
2023.12.1

8 Martha Banyas
The Edge of Quiet, 2012.
Enamel, copper, steel, wood.
Gift of Martha Banyas.
2023.9.1

9 Kat Cole
Pile Outline, 2016.
Steel, enamel, brass. Gift of
the Enamel Arts Foundation.
2023.26.17.

10 Jean Ames
Sunset Serenade Plate, ca. 1950s.
Enamel on copper. Gift of the
Enamel Arts Foundation.
2023.26.2.

be the spark

CREATING A METAL ARTS CENTER IN THE HEART OF MEMPHIS



Rendering by WHY Architects, Los Angeles.

The Metal Museum is looking forward to an incredible future in Overton Park. We are delighted to think about all the ways this expansion will change our Museum for the better, while keeping all the aspects we hold dear.

This campaign touches on something for everyone: preservation of a historic building, carrying on the legacy of arts and culture in Overton Park, bringing artists to Memphis, guiding our youth towards non-traditional career paths, supporting our Park's ecosystem, facilitating larger exhibitions and collections, and much more.

With eight times more space dedicated to education, the expansion will significantly enrich our educational offerings for learners of all ages and skill levels. The new Metals Studio will be three times larger than our current space, providing a consolidated and efficient environment for learning, creating, and collaborating

across the various studio programs. Spacious galleries will welcome triple the number of annual visitors to celebrate the field of fine metalwork, while increased collections storage positions the Museum to strategically build its collection and elevate the Museum's status as a global leader in fine metalwork preservation and promotion.

As we reflect on the past year and count our blessings, we feel grateful to everyone who has supported and embraced our vision for the expansion of the Museum. Because of you, we look ahead to our future—the Metal Museum: The International Metal Arts Institute will soon make its home in Overton Park!

2023 Capital Campaign Contributions

The Metal Museum gratefully acknowledges donors who supported the Museum's Be the Spark campaign through cash gifts and multi-year pledges from January 1 through December 31, 2023.

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			Lee Wurtzburger
			Jan Young

contributions

The Metal Museum gratefully acknowledges donors who supported the Museum's annual programming and operations from January 1 through December 31, 2023.

\$100,000+

Windgate Foundation
Tennessee Arts Commission

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ARTSmemphis
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*Gifts include in-kind goods or services

**Gifts include donated art

We take every care to ensure the accuracy of this listing. If you believe there to be an error, please accept our apology and contact Madison Miller at madison@metalmuseum.org

In Honor Of

Ron and Irene Ayotte

Kay Rawlings

Gary Backaus and Margot McNeeley

Carissa Hussong and David Lusk

Zac Barrett

Rod and Judy Barrett

Greg Baudoin and Greg Campbell

Gary Backaus and Margot McNeeley

Tootsie Bell

Virginia Whelan

Stephen and Katherine Bush

Carissa Hussong and David Lusk

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Eric and Elena Caron

Mimsy Jones

Carissa Hussong and David Lusk

Todd Keathley

La Vida Feliz Foundation

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Milton and Maggie Lovell

Carissa Hussong and David Lusk

Mary Lusk

Carissa Hussong and David Lusk

Lydia Elsa Martin

Deitra Blackwell

David McCarthy and Marina Pacini

Carissa Hussong and David Lusk

Jackie and Leah Nichols

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Jack 'Woody' Ray and Cara Wassenberg

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Stacy Smith

Dolph Smith

Carissa Hussong and David Lusk

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Craig and Linda Nutt

Gerald Williams

Justin Williams

Charles and Marni Wright

Carissa Hussong and David Lusk

In Memory Of

Phillip Baldwin

Carissa Hussong and David Lusk

Robert and Barbara Keeler

James Wallace

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Lloyd Hearn

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Wil Hergenrader

Carissa Hussong and David Lusk

J.T. Jabbour

Eric and Elena Caron

William Winterfeld

Robert and Barbara Keeler

Mary Lou Robinson

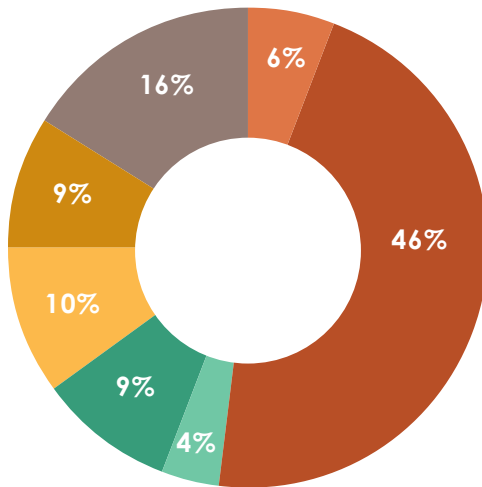
James Wallace

FISCAL YEAR 2023

financial summary



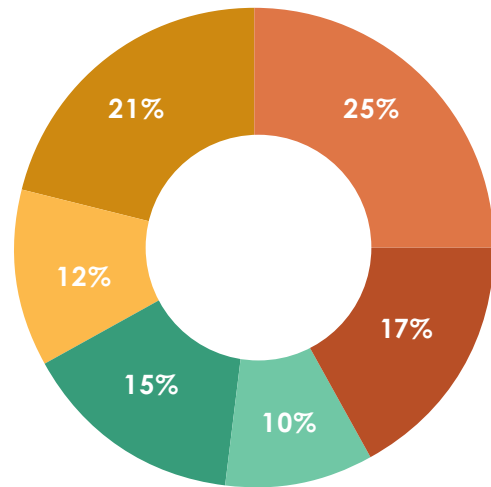
income



● Contributions	143,232
● Foundations & Grants	1,026,217
● Admissions & Membership	89,500
● Special Events	204,493
● Metals Studios	229,646
● Museum Store	199,100
● Other	364,402

total income **\$2,256,590**

expenses



● Administration & Operating	477,075
● Development & Fundraising	325,089
● Museum Store	191,274
● Metals Studios	280,482
● Education & Outreach	236,833
● Collections & Exhibitions	400,661

total expenses **\$1,911,414**

2023 by the numbers



19,537

*total Museum
visitors in 2023*

1,375

*people took a
group tour*

27

Gold Tours given



265

*people attended
a class or
workshop*

553

*in-person and
virtual program
attendees*



60

*artists represented
in exhibitions*

254

objects on display

27 private loans
*from individual
collectors*



2,783

*total outreach
participants*

16

*outreach events
offered*

1,500

M4 participants



20,000

*Facebook
fans*



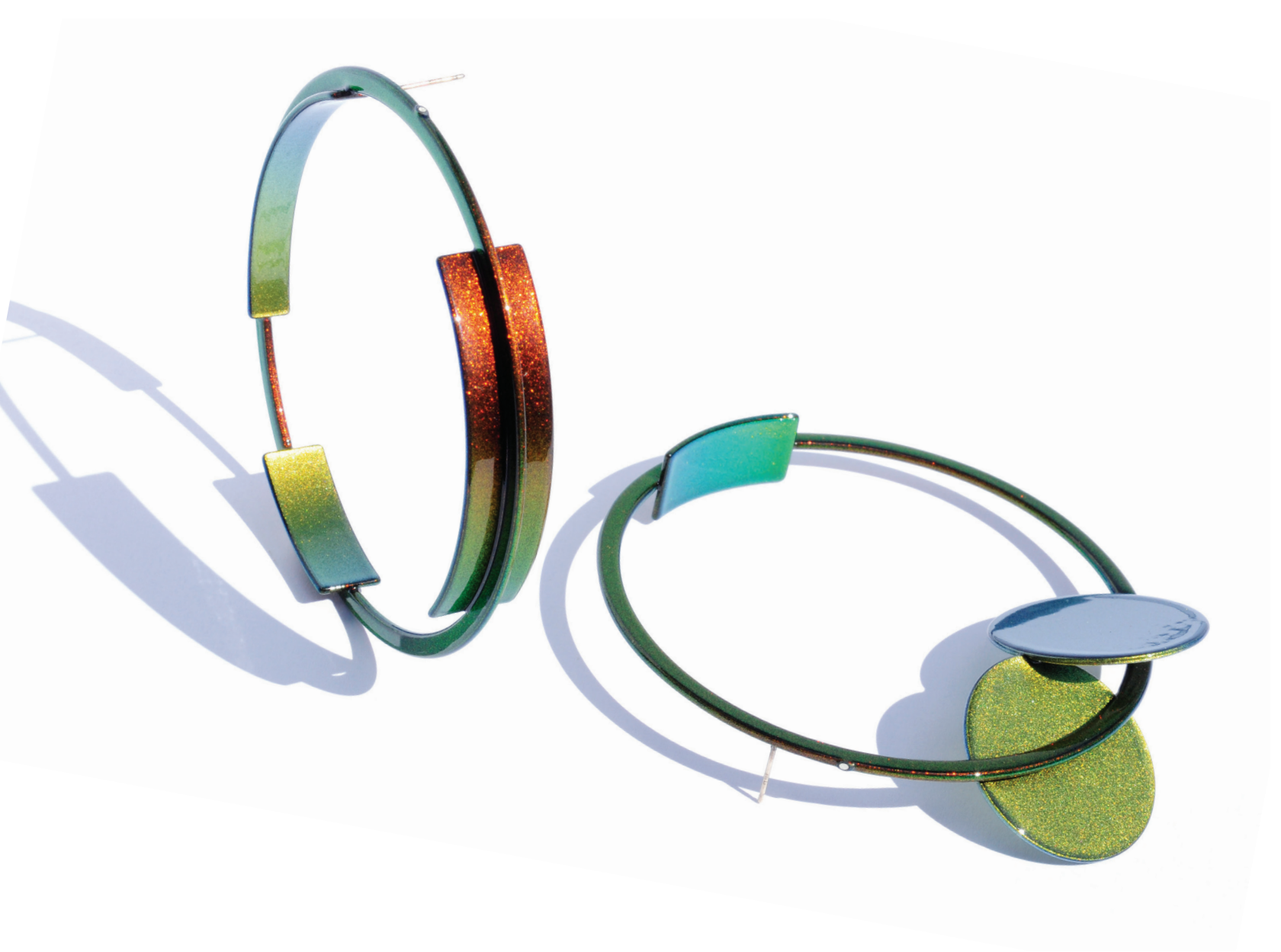
12,900

*Instagram
followers*



203,342

*Overall website
visits*



METAL
MUSEUM

INTERNATIONAL
METAL ARTS INSTITUTE

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