



# Michigan Silversmiths Guild

## Summer 2010 Newsletter

### PRESIDENT’S LETTER

Dear MSG Members:

It’s hard to know where to begin, especially with so little paper real estate to pack it into. This has been one of the busiest summers I can think of. Being that this is the Summer edition and our last quarterly newsletter for the membership cycle, the most appropriate place to start would be with the word “thank you”.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of the Guild, for participating in activities, and contributing information to the newsletter and our website. Thank you to the participants of this year’s art fair for collaborating so well in a more than challenging environment. Thank you sponsors for your contributions, suggestions, support and for continuing to be part of our community. Thank you Board members, you put in many hours of your time attending meetings, planning events and handling the many other odd jobs that come with serving an organization and you probably hear the words “thank you” the least.

I want to take a moment to especially thank Bill and Kathy Fitzpatrick who have served on the MSG Board in various positions which include President and Head of the *Jewelry + Objects Exhibition* for many years. Bill and Kathy will be stepping down from the Board this fall, but will continue to lend guidance through volunteering on the *Jewelry + Objects Exhibition* committee.

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As a recap for the years activities, the MSG Membership cycle started September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009. Our first activity every year is the Annual All Membership Meeting, which was held September 13<sup>th</sup> at Eastern Michigan University with our kind host Gretchen Otto and our wonderful lecturer Caroline Gore. A good number of our membership was present and Mary Kernahan was elected to the Board of Directors. In December, the Guild launched our facebook page which now has 126 members. January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010, we had a group tour of AU Enterprises. We

[www.misilversmith.org](http://www.misilversmith.org)

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learned about the various aspects of their operations and about the many services they offer. We also got to meet some of their very talented employees. Later that afternoon, the Guild hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Holiday Party. This year it was held at Angelina Italian Bistro. We exchanged white elephant gifts and ate some wonderful food. This summer marked MSG's 5th summer hosting two spaces at the Ann Arbor South University Art Fair. I didn't realize that Year 5 came with a test, through challenging weather, slow sales, and more! Mary Kernahan, with the support of Jennifer Thomson and Erica Bartels, made sure we passed with flying colors. It seems like working the art fair is a continual learning experience, but it was great to see that everything that we have learned over the past four years was used and shared with others.

Recently, the focus has changed to finishing up the odds and ends for the year and looking to next years activities. At this years Annual All Membership Meeting, we will have a full agenda of activities to discuss. Erica Bartels has put together a surprisingly clever list of workshops that she will announce at the meeting, Steven Tracy has several exhibition opportunities for us that are in the works and Mary Kernahan has already signed us up for the 2011 South University Ann Arbor Art Fair. Also at this meeting we will be looking for a couple of people to add to our Board to help facilitate all the activities that we have underway this year. PLEASE do consider becoming part of the team, contact Erica Bartels (Nominations and Elections Committee Chair and VP) at [ericia@misilversmith.org](mailto:ericia@misilversmith.org) if you are interested. Also, the general membership will be voting on the Board's recommendation to change the annual dues structure. At the last Board Meeting, it was recommended that there be a \$5 increase (to help cover the rising cost of printing/ mailing and general cost of everything going up a bit) to active member dues. If passed, this change would go into effect for the 2011-2012 membership cycle. For more information on the Annual Meeting and this year's lecture, please see page 9.

## CLASSES AT ARMSTRONG TOOL & SUPPLY

31541 W. Eight Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48152  
(248) 474-1600 [www.armstrongtool.com](http://www.armstrongtool.com)

September 4, 10am - 1 pm. **Tab Setting** with Lesley DiPiazza

September 15, 6-8 pm. **Freeform Wire Wrap** with Sig Lawson

September 18, 10am - 1pm. **Threaded Connections** with Lesley DiPiazza

September 22, 6-9pm. **Spinner Rings** with Kathy Ruffin

September 25, 2-5pm. **Fold Forming** with Dan Neville

September 28, 6-8pm. **Gridbox Bracelet** with Mary Kernahan

September 29, 6-8:30pm. **Icicle Earrings** with Kathy Ruffin

October 2, 9:30am - 1pm. **Flex Shaft Boot Camp** with Mary Kernahan

## New Membership

Please welcome the following new MSG members:

**ALYSSA CHAMBO**  
**ZOHAR STRINKA**

Thanks for your time and as always, if you have any ideas or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [christine@misilversmith.org](mailto:christine@misilversmith.org).

Sincerely,  
Christine Bossler  
MSG President

## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY MSG MEMBERS:

**RENEE ZETTLE-STERLING** has several shows coming up:

Sept. 7 - Oct. 1, 2010: *O Manifold*, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

Sept. 22 - Oct. 10, 2010: Solo exhibition *Object of Mourning: Luminality*, Art Prize, Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, Fulton St., Grand Rapids, MI

Nov. 11- Dec. 14, 2010: Solo Exhibition *Objects of Mourning*, Madigan Library Gallery, Penn Technical College, Williamsport, PA

**Renee** received a Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence, Faculty Research Grant-in-Aid from Grand Valley State University to complete work on the *Objects of Mourning* series.



Object of Mourning Senses by Renee Zettle-Sterling

**CHERYL BROOKS** has a new gallery representing her work - Lines Gallery in Jackson Hole, WY.

**SUE SZABO** will be showing a series of brooches at the National Women's Show "From Our Perspective" at the Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills, MI from Sept. 16 to Oct. 8, 2010.

**Sue** also won first place in the national Jewelry Artist Awards in the bracelet category and second place in the brooch category. Both were published in the Sept 2010 issue of Jewelry Artist magazine.



"Ripple" by Sue Szabo

## Celebrate the Grand Re-Opening of Fritz and Friends



Fritzwillis has been an educational studio in downtown Franklin, Michigan, for the last 23 years, offering classes in jewelry making and metalsmithing. They have offered classes studying a variety of techniques with in the field, beginning to advanced. Over the years, hundreds of students have passed through Fritzwillis' doors to explore the creative art of metalsmithing.

In the last few years, the owners, Becky and Barb, have sadly decided to move on, and began to 'wind down' the business. Fritzwillis stopped accepting new students, and made plans to close down the studio. Not wanting to lose the opportunity to continue their studies, a group of students came together to purchase the business and are re-opening as Fritz and Friends!

Fritz and Friends will be celebrating the Grand Re-Opening Sunday, September 12th from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. The studio is located at 32722 Franklin Road, Franklin, MI. 48025. Please join us for refreshments and metalsmithing demonstrations.

Classes will begin the following week, starting Monday, September 13th.

For more information, please contact Fritz and Friends at:

Phone: (248) 737-9091

Email: [Info@Fhttp://www.facebook.com/l/b521fGZaZwG36-bie\\_cAOUEAEXw:ritzandFriends.org](mailto:Info@Fhttp://www.facebook.com/l/b521fGZaZwG36-bie_cAOUEAEXw:ritzandFriends.org)

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## Cleaning AG with "Green Power"!

### Things you need:

Aluminum foil

Container to hold the silver and water in.  
(Casserole dishes work great!)

Baking soda

Water

Pot

1. Line the bottom of the container with aluminum foil.
2. Place your tarnished silver on the aluminum foil in the container (the silver needs to be touching the foil)
3. Boil the water (the hotter the water is, the better the reaction).
4. Add approx 1 cup of baking soda per gallon of water. (Do this slowly as the baking soda will fizz as you add it to the water)
5. Add the baking soda & water mixture to the container (be mindful, it's hot!)  
You should see an almost instantaneous change in the silver.

You may need to move the silver around on the aluminum foil a bit. While the visible effects of the removal are instantaneous, you probably want to leave it in for about 10-15 minutes. If you start seeing black flecks in the water and it starts to smell like rotten eggs, don't worry. That's the aluminum sulfate precipitating out of the solution,

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## UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR AREA:

(check out our website for more info)

### MSG All Membership Meeting:

September 19, 2010 at EMU. See page 9 for details.

### Grand Re-Opening of Fritz & Friends:

September 12, 2010, Fritz & Friends, 32722 Franklin Rd., Franklin, MI 48025

### Workshop: September 24-26, 2010.

Experimental Surfaces: Enameling with Barbara Minor, Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State, 17 Fountain St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI.

### Exhibition: October 1- November 17, 2010

The 100@100: 100 Works of Art by Alumni Artists. Opening Reception: October 1, 2010, Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Bowling Green State University, OH

Lecture: The 100@100: ARTalks Lecture by Marilyn da Silva, September 29, 2010, Room 201, Fine Arts Center, Bowling Green State University

Exhibition: Ohio Designer Craftsmen "Best of 2010" at the Ohio Craft Museum - May 2 - June 20. It will then move to Owens Community College for Aug. 9 - Sept. 25, then to Lima Artspace for Nov. 5 - Dec. 18th, 2010.

Exhibition: Dichotomies in Objects, Contemporary South African Studio Jewelry from the Stellenbosch, Ohio Craft Museum in Columbus, Ohio, Sept, 12 - Oct. 31, 2010.

### MSG 2011 Jewelry + Objects Exhibition

at the Midland Center for the Arts, July 13 - Sept. 25, 2011.

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### CALL FOR ENTRY DEADLINES

(links to applications are available on our web-site - <http://misilversmith.org>)

**INTERNATIONAL PEARL DESIGN COMPETITION 2020 2011:** Deadline: September 1, 2010.

**NON/FUNCTIONAL:** an online exhibition that features Craffhaus members from a variety of media. Check their website for more info. Deadline: September 3, 2010

**CRAFT FORMS 2010:** 16th annual Wayne Art Center exhibition of contemporary craft. Deadline: September 16, 2010

**SAUL BELLOW DESIGN AWARD:** Named for the founder of Rio Grande, features innovative designs. Deadline: September 17, 2010.

**CO: OPERATION TABLEWARE:** to be exhibited at the SNAG conference 2011 in Seattle. Deadline: November 5, 2010.

**HUMOR IN CRAFT:** Call for images for a book scheduled to be on the market in 2012. Deadline: Rolling, the sooner you send in your entry, the greater your chance!

and is normal. After you take the silver out, it is wise to rub it with a soft cloth to help remove the excess dirt/aluminum sulfate off. Don't just let the silver air-dry. You may need to do this treatment a few times to get all of the tough spots (or not, depending on how bright and shiny you want it to be)

Best part is, no silver gets removed in this process!

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## **Digital jewelry making for a low budget by Claas Kuhnen**

Every serious jewelry designer has a small set of tools, such as files, saws, pliers, hammers, and maybe a small set of stakes among other things. These are affordable and essential to make small scale productions. Bigger tools such as a hydraulic press, precise electronic kiln or casting equipment come with a much higher price tag. One might be able to rent tool time, or have access to them through their work. Luckily, setting up your digital jewelry studio is very easy and affordable while still having access to the high-end technology. Similar to sending out your wax models to a lost wax casting company, it is now possible to send out your 3D jewelry CAD model to online printing companies.

For example, Shapeways offers a very broad range of printing processes and material selection for a very competitive price. They offer everything from selective laser sintering, to fused deposition modeling, to laminated object manufacturing. For materials you can select from ABS plastic, zCore powder, aluminum, stainless steel, gold plated stainless steel, and lime soda glass. Their website is very straight forward. You upload your computer file, estimate model volume, select material and calculate the print and shipping price. You can find a detailed description of all their materials, their properties and volume costs at their website: [www.shapeways.com/materials](http://www.shapeways.com/materials).

For generating 3D models one also needs the software for it. For low budget conscious designers who do not need the complexity of Rhino or do not want to spend so much money, MOI from [www.moi3d.com](http://www.moi3d.com) might be a good alternative. It is based on Rhino, while with a simplified user interface it has a creative sketch approach to design while not sacrificing precision. MOI is very easy to use and to learn, in particular for those who think CAD is too complex. With MOI, it is not at all. It is budget friendly at \$295.

Free form and organic shapes can easily be created with Blender 3D from [www.blender.org](http://www.blender.org). It offers a very strong tool set for so-called subdivided surface polygon modeling which is common in the film animation industry and recently emerging in high-end programs used inside the industrial design field. Besides modeling, it also generates animation and renderings. Since it is an open source, it is free.

It is worth to add here that Blender has a script language which allows a designer with a scripting background to generate forms and shapes based on math algorithms. Furthermore, because Blender is an animation package, it also comes with functions such as fluids, soft-bodies and others. While initially intended for film making, those tools can also be used to simply generate objects to print in 3D. Think about the idea to animate an object and browse through variations in timeline, and simply pick a state of a frame to send to the printing service.

For those who are familiar with sculpting with clay, Sculptris from [www.sculptris.com](http://www.sculptris.com) is a pure digital clay sculpting program which is similar to painting a 3d model. With a brushes of different sizes and patterns you can push  
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and pull, shrink or expand, add or remove volume, just like in real clay. Sculptris is also an open source.

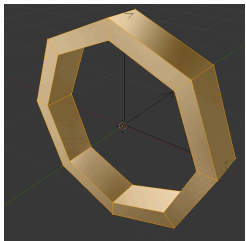
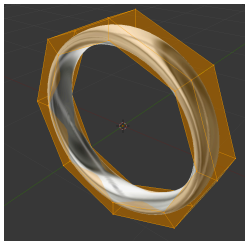
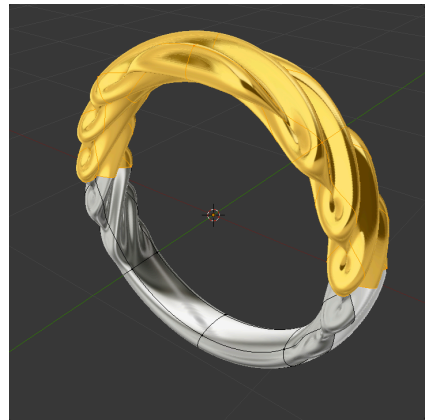
All three programs can generate CAD files understood by the 3D printers.

For ultimate control, it is worth mentioning the T-Splines plug in for Rhino 3D. What T-splines offers is polygon subdivision surface based modeling which, once done, can be converted into perfectly matching and water tight NURBS surfaces with the press of a button. In addition, polygon models from other applications such as Blender can also be imported and converted. The philosophy behind this is that you use each tool for what it is best suitable for. Blender and polygon based programs are very good at organic and experimental modeling. Rhino is very good for precision modeling. T-Splines acts here as a bridge which combines both worlds into one seamless workflow.

Digital modeling offers, in contrast to analog techniques, the advantage to rapidly explore design variations in 3D space without any production costs and the ability to make quick alterations to the design. In addition, this enables the artist to generate objects normally too difficult and time consuming for hand fabrication - or even impossible, such as 3D printing in a matte glass material.

What was years ago a dream to even touch is today a cost effective tool. Each designer should decide the best place to incorporate this into their process. And for those who never worked in the digital realm before, this might be a welcome incentive to explore it.

## Images:

		
<i>Raw Low Polygon Model</i>	<i>Subdivided Surface Model</i>	<i>Texture Sculpted Model</i>

**Article contributed by**  
**Claas Eicke Kuhn**  
**Artist : Designer : Educator**

## MSG ANNUAL ALL-MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WHEN: Sunday, September 19, 2010, 12:30 - 4 PM



WHERE: EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

WHAT: Annual Membership meeting including Board elections, Tool Swap, shopping opportunities from our sponsors, a lecture presented by Masako Onodera entitled *Tactile Bodies*, and refreshments!

### SCHEDULE:

12:00 : Tool Swap Set-Up (everyone is invited to bring old & new tools, art projects and supplies and sell them through a silent auction style bidding system. Please use the tool swap form on page 10 of this newsletter.

12:30: Tool Swap Begins, shopping at sponsor tables begins.

1:00: All Membership Meeting

2:00: Snack break and tool shopping

2:45: Lecture: *Tactile Bodies* by Masako Onodera - Instructor, Bowling Green State University. For more details, please see our web site.

3:45: Tool swap ends and clean up



*Eruption Necklace* by Masako Onodera



# Tools and Equipment Auction

When: Sunday, September 19, 2010 12:30-4 PM  
Where: Eastern Michigan University, Briggs Hall  
Who: All MSG members and friends  
What: Tools and related Equipment

The silent auction is open to all members and friends of the Michigan Silversmiths Guild. You may display and sell all jewelry related items (no Hawaiian shirts or barbecue grills). Please have your items set up and ready to be ogled by 12:30 PM and unsold items packed up by 4:00pm.

Please Photocopy as Needed

Item Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Bidder's Name:

Amount Bid:

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Please use this form to renew your membership or pass it along to someone who would be interested in joining the Guild



**Michigan Silversmiths Guild**

## 2010 -2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

This form can be completed online and then printed. Use your mouse to click on a box or line.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Please Check One:  [New] or  [Renewing] Membership

Membership Year is September 1 through August 31 . There are no prorates on membership fees.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY** (check one)  **Yes, Please Include Me**  **No, Do Not Include Me**  
**PLEASE SEND MY COMMUNICATIONS BY**(check one)  **Email in PDF Format**  **US Mail**

(renewing members only need to indicate their name and any changes to their personal information)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_  
 College/University \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor \_\_\_\_\_

	Cost	Quantity	Amount
<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>			
Active Membership \$25	\$25		\$
Student Membership \$10	\$10		\$
Family Membership \$35 Name of additional family member _____	\$35		\$
Life Time Membership \$250 ***NEW as of 2006***	\$250		\$
<b>SHOP MSG:</b>			
MSG Black & Silver T-Shirt Size: <input type="radio"/> Small <input type="radio"/> Medium <input type="radio"/> Large	\$18		\$
Size: <input type="radio"/> X-Large <input type="radio"/> XX-Large <input type="radio"/> XXX-Large	\$20		\$
MSG Black & Silver Apron One Size Fits All	\$23		\$
(payable to Michigan Silversmiths Guild) <b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>			\$

Mail check or money order with application to: MSG Membership Chair 1484 Atkinson Detroit, MI 48206 christine.bossler@gmail.com 313.443.1576	MSG Use Only: Date Rec'd _____ Date Proc: _____ Ck #/Cash/MO _____ Database Treasurer Card Sent Store _____ Report Update Receipt No. _____
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The Michigan Silversmiths Guild newsletter is published quarterly for members of the Guild. We would love to hear from you. Let us know what YOU would like to see in the newsletter -

Articles? About what?

Bench tips?

Interviews?

Book reviews?

Product reviews?

Please contact me with questions, comments or ideas!!

MSG Newsletter  
3416 Sussex Ct.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
-or-  
jthomson3416@gmail.com

### Officers

President - Christine Bossler  
Vice President - Erica Bartels  
Treasurer - Richard Locke  
Secretary - Jennifer Thomson

### Board Members at Large

Juanita Bitonti  
Bill & Kathy Fitzpatrick  
Skip Hunter  
Mary Kernahan  
Tiffany Massey  
Steve Tracy

You can contact Board Members by going to the web site and clicking on the "About MSG" section



**Michigan Silversmiths Guild**

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