



Houston Metal Arts Guild Newsletter

Summer 2026

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Houston Metal Arts Guild

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Letter from the President



HMAG President Jessica Jacobi.

Hello friends!

Last year we celebrated HMAG's 30th anniversary, and now I find myself reflecting on what makes our organization so special: our members. Whether you've been with us for years or recently joined our community, thank you for sharing your creativity, expertise, curiosity, and generosity. It is your enthusiasm for metalsmithing and jewelry arts that keeps our organization vibrant and inspires us to continue growing together.

The past year has been filled with learning, connection, and creative exploration. From workshops and lectures to share-and-tells and conversations, every event has been strengthened by members who volunteer their time, share their knowledge, and encourage one another. On behalf of the Board, thank you for helping make our organization a welcoming place for metal artists at every stage of their journey.

We're excited about what lies ahead, and we're also exploring new communities to engage with and share our members' work. This fall, we're exploring new partnership opportunities with the **Bayou City Arts Festival** by applying to participate as a Non-profit Partner. If accepted, HMAG will have a booth and do public demonstrations of metalsmithing, as well as showcase examples of metal arts and art jewelry. Stay tuned for more updates!

HMAG members are also invited to participate in a wonderful opportunity in September! **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC)** has invited HMAG to do a pop-up exhibition at the museum for two special audiences. The HMAG pop-up will be featured in a private Patron Event for HCCC's audience of **Patron Circle donors** on September 24th, and again for a special visit and tour of members from **Art Jewelry Forum (AJF)** on September 25th. HMAG members are welcome to exhibit works for sale, as these audiences include art collectors and enthusiasts of craft and art jewelry. Works will be selected in a live-jury process by HCCC's Curator + Exhibitions Director, **Sarah Darro**. Full details and application information are available on [our website](#), and we hope all members will apply!

The coming year promises to be one of growth, creativity, and connection. We encourage you to attend events, volunteer, introduce yourself to new members, and share your ideas for future programming. Together, we can continue building an organization that celebrates craftsmanship, supports artistic excellence, and

welcomes everyone with a passion for metal arts. Thank you for your continued support and participation. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and celebrating another inspiring year together.

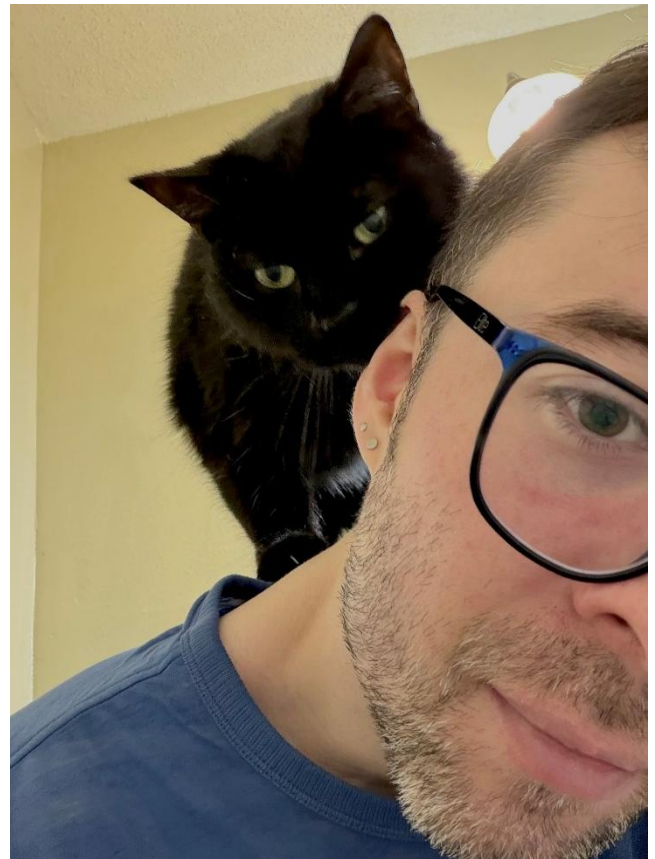
Jessica Jacobi

HMAG President



Welcome New Board Member Victor M. Beckmann!

HMAG is pleased to announce that jewelry artist and educator **Victor M. Beckmann** has joined the Board in the role of Education coordinator.



Victor with his studio assistant, Ati.

Victor Beckmann is a metal artist from the El Paso/Juarez border region holding an MFA degree in Studio Art from **New Mexico State University** and is currently an instructor at the **Glassell School of Art**. He received his BFA from the **University of Texas at El Paso**, where he studied Metalsmithing and Graphic Design. His work has been featured in regional, national, and multinational exhibitions as well as published in the *Jewelry and Metalsmithing Survey (vol. 2&3.)* Victor's work utilizes a multitude of mediums, while his approach is typically related to the body. His work explores the irreverence of contemporary digital trends and the way they affect our physical experience and transactions of the self.

Happy Anniversary HMAG!

Just over 30 years ago, in 1995, a group of Houston metalsmiths, inspired and energized by their recent visit to the **Society of North American Goldsmiths'** annual conference in New Orleans, decided to found their own local metal arts organization here in Houston. They approached the task with optimism, energy, and commitment, and three plus decades later, their hard work is still paying off.

Voices from HMAG's Past

Thanks to the organizational and archiving skills of HMAG's founding president, **Britt Caffarena**, we are able to peek into HMAG's past through some very old issues of this newsletter, formerly called **The Gold Pages**.

From the start, the group presented educational and social activities, opportunities for members to exhibit and sell their work, and inspiring artist talks and visits, just as we do today. However, several events featured in the early newsletters, such as assembling a slide library of members' work or gathering to watch an instructional video during a live HMAG meeting, remind us of how much technology has evolved over the past three decades.

Here are some newsletter highlights.

Fall 1995: In the inaugural edition of the newsletter, we learn that the founding team considered a number of alternative names, including **The Metal People**.



If I only had a flex shaft!

Spring 1996: Several HMAG members collaborated to create a necklace that was auctioned at the **Cattle Baron's Ball**, to benefit the **American Cancer Society**. Unfortunately, no image is available.

Fall 1998: HMAG sponsors a contest to come up with a logo for the organization. **Lisa Krueger** was the winner.



The winning design.

Summer 1999: HMAG was in the process of creating a high-quality Y2K wall calendar featuring members' artwork. Perhaps thanks to the existence of this artifact, HMAG (and the world) survived Y2K intact.

Fall 2006: HMAG reported on a variety of activities, including a member show and a studio crawl. A program featuring the game-changing new technology of laser welding was a big success.

Winter 2018: This edition contained an article describing how one member recovered from a studio flood in the

wake of Hurricane Harvey, with a little help from her friends.



Harvey cleanup, circa 2017.

Reminder: Did You Renew Your HMAG Membership?

Having celebrating HMAG as it enters its fourth decade, it seems like a good time to remind the group that member year 2026-2027 started on June 1. If you forgot to renew, it's not too late! For details, see [our website](#). Thanks!



Recent Program Recap

HMAG continues to offer opportunities for members to connect, learn, and be inspired. If you have any ideas for upcoming programs, please send them to HMAGProg@gmail.com, and we'll do our best to arrange them.

Craft Community Day

On November 1, HMAG volunteers participated in the **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft's Craft Community Day**, where they joined other local craft guilds in providing demonstrations and other activities to the public.

Diane Falkenhagen: Image Conscious Artist Talk

On December 6, in the lead-up to her January workshop, artist **Diane Falkenhagen** discussed her work and artistic processes before a sizeable group of HMAG members and friends at the **Glassell School of Art** auditorium. Diane is a studio jeweler and educator known for her distinctive, one-of-a-kind art jewelry, in which the focal point is usually a picture, rather than a gemstone. In an era when we all have to reevaluate what makes jewelry precious and beautiful, it was a timely conversation.

Diane explained that her years living in Brazil in the 1990s exposed her to a new aesthetic, featuring the opulence of church architecture and the country's distinctive colonial influences. In contrast to her earlier work, which was

HMAG 30th Anniversary Celebration



From left to right, members Jessica Jacobi, Audrey Crowson, Masumi Kataoka, Corey Acklemire, and Drew Scott.

On May 21, HMAG hosted a member dinner and party in honor of our recent 30th anniversary at **Ouisie's Table** in Houston, in conjunction with our annual meeting.

Members enjoyed a delicious meal while catching up with friends. Meanwhile, a slide show of old HMAG event photos provoked laughter and a few sighs as we reflected on the passage of time.



mostly abstract, she began to explore the Baroque and Rococo in both small sculptures and jewelry.



Artist Diane Falkenhagen with HMAG President Jessica Jacobi.

Around the same time, she began experimenting with applying printed images onto materials more durable than paper. She experimented tirelessly with numerous types of materials and honed her craft over time.

Diane stated that she started developing a recognizable style in the early 2000s. Her work, which merges the classic and contemporary, often includes mechanisms such as hinges or clasps, as well as a picture-frame-like structure. Symmetry, layers, screens, and veils proliferate, along with art-historical references from the Renaissance to the Victorian era, and, more recently, themes drawn from nature. Her skill and thoughtfulness



Brooch by Diane Falkenhagen.

allow her to combine the architectural with the sentimental in a way that makes the most elaborate pieces seem natural and inevitable in their final form.

Another hallmark of Diane's work is its complexity. Her virtuosity as a maker and craftswoman is impressive, especially if you have a chance to get close to her work. Diane elaborated on the multiple steps, processes, and often *rivets* in her showstopping pieces, something that her informed audience of jewelers could only marvel at.



Additional brooch by Diane Falkenhagen.

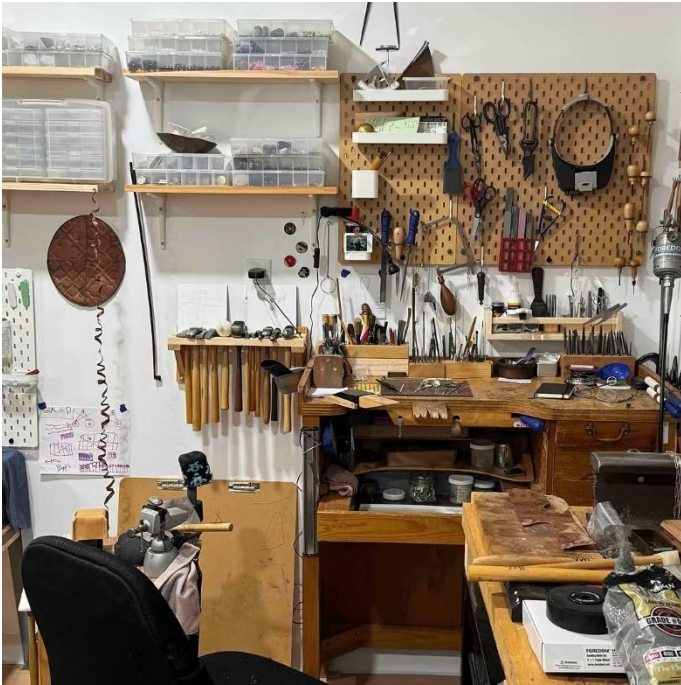
As the talk drew to a close, the audience had a chance to examine the many pieces that Diane brought along, including more recent pieces that feature her own hand-drawn designs rather than historical artwork. Although this very inspiring survey of her work revealed an impressive artistic evolution, the underlying art and craft remained apparent throughout and make us excited to see what's next.

Member Share and Tell

On February 22, HMAG hosted the latest in an ongoing series of **Member Share and Tell** sessions at **Charisma Design Studios** in the East End. These popular informal events give members a chance to show and talk about their work and get a glimpse of what other members are working on. Participants enjoyed the chance to connect with other members over ideas and processes.

New studio tour: Corey Acklemire and Nathan Dube

On June 27, local metalsmiths **Corey Acklemire** and **Nathan Dube** invited HMAG to tour their new shared studio space following a recent move. This was the second time Corey and Nathan shared a studio move and redesign with HMAG. Members appreciated the hospitality and came away with new ideas and inspiration for their own workspaces.



A view from the studio.

Member Talk: Planes, Trains, and Jewelry: An Adventure in Munich

On August 8, HMAG members (and real-life colleagues) **Jessica Jacobi** and **René Lee Henry** gave a talk reviewing their recent trip to **SCHMUCKmünchen** and **Munich Jewelry Week** in the jewelry studio at the **Glassell School of Art**. The trip was undertaken with the sponsorship and generous assistance of their employer, the **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft**, and the **Houston Endowment**.



René and Jessica in transit.

After sharing some logistical lessons learned during a first trip to a new city, Jessica and René discussed the joys and challenges of exploring two art fairs at multiple venues covering not only jewelry and other wearables, but also housewares, objects, and handcrafts. With so much going on, the pair had to choose between competing gallery openings, talks, and receptions.

Jessica and René also shared lots of images with the group, not only of intriguing jewelry and objects, but also of innovative display ideas and live events. The presentation underlined the truly international nature of Munich Jewelry Week, the scope of the art jewelry field, and its willingness to see jewelry as more than just adornment.



Recent Workshop Recap

HMAG continues to offer local workshops to help members extend their skills. If you have any ideas for future workshops, please submit them to HMAGWkshp@gmail.com.

Workshop: Dongyi Wu's Stitched & Linked: Crafting Fashionable Fabric Jewelry

On the weekend of September 20 - 21, artist **Dongyi Wu** presented a workshop at **Charisma Design Studios**, where she shared the ideas and techniques behind her distinctive fashion-inspired fabric jewelry.



"Togetherness" necklace by Dongyi Wu.

On the first day, students focused on designing and developing fabric-based components. For the design stage, they incorporated magazine clippings and other paper-based elements into inspirational free-form collages before moving on to selecting fabric from the large stock that the instructor provided.

Armed with their materials, students were ready to start building their pieces. Dongyi, who uses hand and machine sewing as well as embroidery techniques in her own work, shared the basics with the class. Next, students learned how to design and construct artistic fabric components with volume, using unexpected techniques such as sewing and then stuffing tiny pillowlike shapes with batting. Along the way Dongyi provided advice and resources for gathering fabric and other materials so students could continue to design and create on their own.

On the second day, the focus shifted to adding metal components to fabric pieces. Dongyi described how metal can be used functionally in soft jewelry to improve its wearability and aesthetics. For example, a metal pin back allows a wearer to connect a brooch to a shirt, while a metal clasp adds finish and versatility to a necklace.



"Access to Unknown Worlds" brooch by Dongyi Wu.

Dongyi touched on sawing, soldering, and cold connection metal techniques, and then demonstrated the fabric-to-metal joining techniques that she has been developing for the past decade. These allow fabric jewelry artists to construct secure and functional connections between metal and fabric components as boldly or unobtrusively as their designs dictate.

Regardless of the level of sewing and construction skills that they began with, the students had a lot of fun and left with a new perspective on what may be considered jewelry materials and techniques.

Workshop: Diane Falkenhagen's Picture This: Image & Surface Alchemy for Art Jewelry

On the weekend of Jan 10 - 11, prominent Galveston-based jewelry artist **Diane Falkenhagen** presented a workshop on image transfers, layered media, and surface magic, held in the **Glassell School of Art's** jewelry studio.

In this hands-on workshop, students had the opportunity to explore creative techniques for incorporating color imagery into their art jewelry.

The primary focus of the workshop was learning to use laser-printed waterslide decals to apply vibrant, detailed images to metal and a variety of other mixed media surfaces.



Workshop participants review samples.

From the start, students were excited to have the opportunity to learn from a master of the art of surface embellishment and brought their full attention to the class. As usual, Diane combined demonstrations and worktime with meticulous organization, thoughtful slide presentations, and detailed instructional notes.



Very satisfied participants!

With the focus on learning techniques by making multiple samples as opposed to trying to complete a single jewelry piece, students learned how to enhance and manipulate preexisting images using additional art media. Next, students learned how to apply them to both flat and dimensional forms, and how to *carefully* shape or fabricate metal after image application. Stepping back a

bit, the group also discussed best practices for when and how to use these techniques effectively in their work.

Over the course of two days, Diane also covered how to integrate imagery with form and concept, how to care for mixed media jewelry, and how to apply various patinas to complement the images in a piece. Students left the class with the confidence and inspiration to apply what they had learned to their own work.

Upcoming Programs

This section lists programs coming up in the next few months. As more programs are added, HMAG will publish them via eBlasts and social media.

On the Horizon

Several exciting programs are coming up later this year as we move into the fall, including:

- A tour of the upcoming exhibition of contemporary silver and jewelry, *Material Inheritance, Silver Anniversary*, at the **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft**.
- A pop-up event in conjunction with the **Art Jewelry Forum** weekend visit to Houston in September. See [this article](#) for details.
- A studio tour with enamellist **Jan Harrell**.
- A meetup at the opening of HMAG member and former Houstonian **Dong Yi Wu's** show opening at *Box 13 Artspace* in the East End in October.

More information will be provided as the schedule firms up. Keep an eye on your eBlasts and other social media!

Upcoming Workshops

This section lists workshops coming up in the next few months. As more workshops are added, HMAG will publish them via eBlasts and social media.

On the Horizon

- Houston metalsmith and instructor **Younha Jung** will present a workshop on the fundamentals of

working with steel on the weekend of September 12 - 13. More details to follow.

- A workshop with metalsmith **Bryan Parnham**, incoming resident at the **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft** is planned for January 2027. More details to follow.



Call for Artists: HMAG Pop-up Exhibition and Sale



HMAG members are invited to submit their work for consideration in a special presentation at the **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC)** this fall.

This juried pop-up exhibition and sale will be on view from September 23 - 25, 2026, and will be presented to two special private audiences: **HCCC's Patron Circle donors**, and touring members from [Art Jewelry Forum \(AJF\)](#), a nonprofit organization established in 1997 to advocate for the field of contemporary art jewelry. This exhibition gives HMAG members an opportunity to share their work

with a discerning audience of curators, art collectors, and craft enthusiasts from Houston and beyond.

The schedule is as follows:

- **September 23 - 24:** HMAG members are welcome to visit and view the pop-up exhibition at **HCCC** on September 23rd and 24th during the museum's public hours of 10:00am – 5:00pm.
- **September 24:** The HMAG pop-up exhibition will be featured in a private event for **HCCC's Patron Circle donors**.
- **September 25:** Members from the **Art Jewelry Forum (AJF)** will tour the HMAG pop-up exhibition with **Cindi Strauss, Curator of Decorative Arts, Craft, and Design**, and **Assistant Director of Programming** at the **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**.

Full information about the admissions and jurying process can be found on our [website](#). The deadline for work and application submission is September 10, 2026 at 5:00 pm.

Announcing HMAG Member Development Grant 2025 Recipient Dongyi Wu

HMAG is pleased to announce that the winner of HMAG's **2025 Member Development Grant** is **Dongyi Wu**. Dongyi, a recent **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft Artist in Residence**, will use her grant to help stage an upcoming exhibition at **Box 13 Artspace** in Houston this fall. In an upcoming newsletter, HMAG will interview Dongyi to learn more about her grant project.

Thanks as always to all the talented members who applied—you make the jury's job hard (but rewarding)!



Community News

Here are some cool things going on in the Houston metals community:

- Recently on view: Artist **Corey Acklemire** held a show, *Concatenated*, at the **HCC (now Houston City College)** Central Fine Arts Center Gallery, from August 18 to October 24, 2025.



Five Years necklace by Corey Acklemire.

- Recently on view: Artist **Edward Lane McCartney** held a show, *Connections*, at Hooks-Epstein Gallery from April 11 to May 9, 2026.



A selection of jewelry from Edward Lane McCartney's recent show.

- Recently on view: The *Juried Student Exhibition* at the **Glassell School of Art**, which closed in early August, featured work by jewelry and enamel artists **Paula Angeleri, Elizabeth Blanton, Lara De Nardo, Terri Fromm, Linda Grandstaff, Marilyn M. Huston, SeeLun (Cici) Mak, Debi Martin, Edward Lane McCartney, Irina Nair, Eleni Papageorge, Collyn Peddie, Kyle Tran, and Nina West..**



"Fault Lines," enamel on copper, by Terri Fromm, on view at the Glassell Juried Student Exhibition.

- Asher: Off the Wall**, the retail outlet at the **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft**, continues to have a strong showing of both local and (inter)national jewelry artists. Local and/or HMAG artists currently available include **Paula Angeleri, Dirigible Designs, Tarina Frank, Jessica Jacobi, Tammy Kuhar, René Lee Henry, Drew Scott, and Dong Yi Wu.**
- Currently on view: *The Jewelry of Dorothea Prühl*, at the **Museum of Fine Arts Houston**. On display is a collection of necklaces and brooches by the renowned German artist and teacher. Through January 3, 2027. Complimentary (with admission) curator's tours on Friday August 28 and Thursday October 15 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.
- Coming soon: The **MFAH** will treat us to another single-artist jewelry exhibition this Fall with *Going Underground: The Jewels of Bernhard Schobinger*. This is the first US exhibition dedicated to the Swiss artist who is best known for transforming

contemporary jewelry by incorporating discarded materials into his work. On view from September 3, 2026, to January 3, 2027.



Share Your News with the Community

We love to highlight what HMAG members and others in our local community are up to professionally. Do you have any artistic or professional news or achievements to share with the HMAG community? Upcoming online or in-person gallery shows? Sales or business milestones? Jury awards or other professional recognition? Changes of address or employment?

Submit your community news to HMAGNews@gmail.com for consideration for the Winter newsletter.



Mission Statement

The Houston Metal Arts Guild, Inc. is a non-profit organization made up of people with varying interests and involvement in traditional and contemporary jewelry and metal arts.

The Guild was founded to provide for the exchange of ideas and information, as well as offer affordable educational opportunities to its members and the public. Our activities include workshops and programs on a wide range of aesthetic, technical, and commercial topics; exhibitions at leading local venues; social and volunteer events; and communications via our Web presence, social media, and newsletter.

The skills, energy, and enthusiasm of the Houston Metals Arts Guild, Inc. members promote and sustain its

successful programs. We welcome and encourage participation by everyone.

HMAG Board 2026 – 2027

President	Jessica Jacobi	HMAGPres@gmail.com
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