

# Melissa Wagner

## Fire Dog Studios

I've been a metal smith and jeweler for over 35 years. I'm the daughter of a farmer, a daughter of the 60's, a former recording engineer and I spend my time creating and teaching art. I currently teach beginning, intermediate and advanced classes in jewelry making at Bemis School of Art at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center; and through my own studio, Fire Dog Studios in Monument CO. I'm also an exhibiting artist and have work on exhibit throughout the Southwest and California.

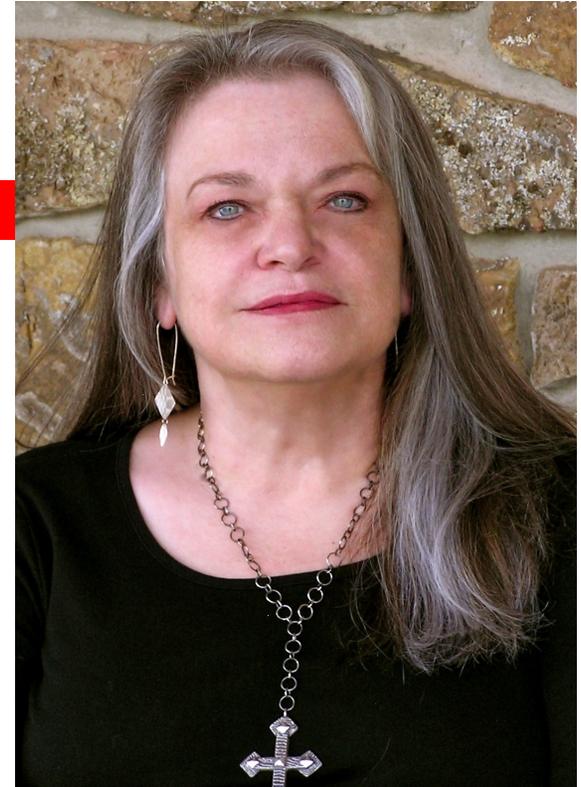
My focus is designing and teaching in metal clay. Metal clay's unique composition has transformed the way jewelry can be made, and has opened the doors of jewelry making to those with little or no previous experience. The complete novice can create and finish jewelry in a one-day class. How can you not be excited by the possibilities?

I was fortunate enough to be asked to share my knowledge and experience with the students at Bemis School of Art in Colorado Springs CO. 2016 will be the tenth year that Bemis has offered my workshops in Precious Metal Clay, and I couldn't be more pleased or satisfied. Every class brings a new learning experience for my students, and for me. My favorite part of the class is learning something new from my students. They have an unfiltered view of this new material and bring new and untried ideas along with them. Because the material we're working with is so uncharted, it is critical to pass on the experiences that we accumulate. And each time we do, something new is passed back to us. Everyone wins.

There is a quality to the metal clay student that advances the educational experience for everyone in the class. My students have run the gambit from stay-at-home Moms; to college, high school, and middle school students; to working professionals, educators, and artists. Each one brings different ideas and a new creative perspective to the class, which is invaluable to all who participate.



It is my goal to provide an enthusiastic and light-hearted approach to my classes while bringing all my skills along. Come on down and join us for classes in Metal Clay, you'll have a great time, and you'll make the coolest jewelry!!



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