Crosscurrents bring to mind images of danger, unseen and menacing. The riptide that pulls you out to sea, the point of convergence and divergence in our life path, or perhaps thoughts that flow counter to the generally accepted forward movement. However, without divergent points of view it is all too easy to travel the familiar path or meandering trace with little or no deviation. While these currents may be challenging to negotiate, a thoughtful, yet open, approach may lead to dynamic solutions. Dialog, interaction, and collaboration; these actions foster a free flow of information which often channels an intense exchange with rewarding results.

Our discipline does not flourish in isolation. Our driving curiosities draw from diverse and unexpected sources, freely synthesizing ideas, materials, and methods into a new understanding and vision. The exchange of ideas and information provides the impetus for creative investigation that often crosses geographical, material, and philosophical boundaries. The world is increasingly interconnected and our ability to understand and to integrate seemingly conflicting notions generates the kind of critical discourse that is vital to the longevity and relevance of contemporary metals and jewelry.

The forum to discuss, observe, and celebrate our diverse and changing discipline is set for the 2008 SNAG conference in Savannah, a city that embodies the idea of crosscurrent vision. Join us in navigating uncharted waters in the continuing journey that is metals and jewelry.
Speakers

Keynote Speaker

Sheila Hicks, Fiber Artist

Looking Inward, Reaching Outward and Upward, Expressing Thoughts and Fine Tooling Them with the Hand”
Sheila Hicks is an internationally recognized fiber artist, known for using her work to build cross-disciplinary bridges between art, design, architecture and decorative arts. She studied design with Josef Albers, pre-Columbian art with George Kubler, and architecture with Vincent Scully and Louis Kahn.

Hicks revolutionized and redefined tapestry art, moving it off the wall and into space, at times working on the scale of a football field. Known for her use of color, experimental materials and personal narratives, her weavings reveal an unprecedented approach to textile media, and a unique connection between the artistic and design aspects of textiles. Hicks employs a remarkably broad range of materials: wool, linen, silk, goat hair, alpaca, vicuna, paper, leather, Chinese cellophane noodles, found objects, and metals, including a new material she created with the Bridgestone Tire Company in Japan called “Silksteel” — a stainless steel fiber that has the sheen of fine silk.

In July 2007, Hicks was one of many distinguished speakers participating in the “Craft at the Limits” conference at the Getty Research Institute, featured on the Master Artists panel. The Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design & Culture produced a retrospective of her work in 2006, “Sheila Hicks: Weaving as Metaphor,” featuring 195 pieces, and published a critically acclaimed catalogue in conjunction with Yale University Press.

Program Speakers

Boris Bally, Studio Metalsmith

“Developing a Hybrid”
Boris Bally’s award-winning work employs the use of jeweler’s skills on non-precious materials. His body of work transforms recycled street signs, weapon parts, and a wide variety of found materials into objects for reflection. Bally will examine how his current work represents the hybridization of multiple genres and techniques that blur the boundaries of art, craft and design.
**Norman Cherry**, Department head, University of Central England, School of Jewellery, Professor

“University and the Real World- A Unique Interface”
An overview of how the Birmingham School of Jewelry interacts with the professional community.

**Iris Eichenberg**, Artist,
Head of Metalsmithing/Jewelry, Cranbrook Academy of Art

“Tenement/ Timelines”
Iris Eichenberg is a German artist who experiments through objects, furniture and jewelry. Eichenberg was trained at the Gerrit Rietvald Academia in the Netherlands. Eichenberg will discuss her own work within the context of contemporary metalsmiths.
**Susan Ewing**, Artist, Professor, Director of MFP Programs in Studio, Miami University

“The Little Prince and Me”
For more than ten years through an intercontinental exchange, Susan Ewing has collaborated with Czech sculptor and jewelry artist Vratislav K. Novak in teaching and studio projects, including two major sculpture projects commissioned in Cincinnati, Ohio. Ewing will illustrate their work and creative process on the theme of ‘coming together’ to express hope, international friendship, communication and freedom.

**Carlier Makigawa**, Studio Jeweler, Metalsmith

“Carlier Makigawa- A Journey”
One of Australia’s leading internationally renowned jeweler and contemporary metalsmiths, Makigawa will be discussing her own work, examining how shapes and spatial relationships are metaphors for life.
Bruce Metcalf, Studio Jeweler, Instructor and Andrew Wagner, Editor-in-Chief of American Craft

“DIY, Websites, and Energy: The New Alternative Crafts”

A joint discussion and presentation examining the changing tastes and attitudes among young designers and craftspeople with the emergence of grassroots craft. Bruce Metcalf is a studio jeweler and writer. Metcalf recently completed co-authoring the first history of 20th century American crafts with Janet Koplos. Andrew Wagner is the editor-in-chief of American Craft magazine.

Richard Nelipovich, Designer/Metalsmith/Professor, Indiana Purdue University at Fort Wayne

“Algorithmic Design: Writing Code to Grow Objects”

In the pursuit of ever larger efficiencies of scale, the human need for variety has been left untended. Algorithmic Design merges the artisanal craft tradition of one-of-a-kind creation with current technology, in order to manufacture individual objects on a semi-mass production scale. As a Fulbright Fellow, Nelipovich worked with Droog Design in Amsterdam studying designer-craftsmen and their use of technology in the Netherlands.
Deb Todd Wheeler, Artist, Professor, Massachusetts College of Art

“Conspirators in the Studio – The Gift of Unlikely Collaborators”
Deb Todd Wheeler will talk about her work, and her varied experiences in different collaborations, which include scientists, insects, ghosts, musicians, communities and children. She will explore how the collaborative experience confounds the control freak in all of us, and leads us to develop a profound respect for the unknown.

Greg Wilbur, Artist

“Big Fun—Collaborative Events”
Seven-time attendee at international collaborative events, Wilbur will speak of his experiences and the structure of international collaborative events in Canada (Emma Lake Collaborations) and New Zealand (CollaborationNZ). Wilbur is a practicing metalsmith in Portland, OR and a founding member of “Art in the Pearl.” Consistently using single pieces of metal in his work for the past 30 years, he has developed a unique language in the medium.
Exhibitions

Co-laboratory
Juried by Sondra Sherman
La Galerie Bleue, SCAD
March 5–April 13, 2008
Focused on contemporary work that accommodates an expansive notion of collaboration in the world of contemporary metals and jewelry.

Overflow
Juried by Leonard Urso
Jen Library, SCAD
March 3 – April 11, 2008
Presents contemporary metalsmithing solutions that address the transformational possibilities between the interior and exterior space of vessels and containers.

Art/Industry
Curated by Donald Friedlich
Pinnacle Gallery, SCAD
An exploration of the dichotomy of objects created by the use of collaborative processes between the hand and the machine.

. . . of lineage and legacy: visual conversations on jewelry and metalworks
Curated by Gail M. Brown
Hall Street Gallery, SCAD
February 29 – March 31, 2008
The generational continuum of jewelry and metals within the larger craft community as a whole.

The Ring Show: Putting the Band Back Together
Fahm Hall, SCAD
February 18 – March 9
Juried by Jamie Bennett, Jim Cotter and Ashley Callahan

The Ring Show: Then & Now
Curated by Robert Jackson and Mary Hallam Pearse
Fahm Hall, SCAD
Revisiting the Juried National Ring Show Exhibitions from 1977, 1978 and 1979; featuring all new work following the parameters of the original exhibitions.

Surge: SNAG Juried Student Exhibition
Juried by Kathleen Browne, Harlan Butt, and Marilyn da Silva
Gallery S.P.A.C.E., City of Savannah
March 7–28, 2008
A showcase of the best student work from college and university metalsmithing and jewelry programs across North America.

Wedding Rituals
Curated by Komelia Okim
Gulf Stream Center for Design, SCAD
Examining ritual and object use in a society in which western and eastern ceremonies have begun to merge.

Additional exhibitions to be added at a later date.
**Special Events**

**Professional Development Seminar**
“Crosscurrents: Navigating Toward New Markets”
Pre-conference, Wednesday 2:00 to 6:00PM, Conference Hotel
This four hour session delivers business and career information on a wide range of topics about establishing and maintaining a career as a professional studio jeweler or metalsmith. Speakers: Megan Auman, Ivan Barnett, Bobby Hansson, April Higashi, Marthe LeVan, Heidi Lowe, and Amy Tavern.

**Opening Night Reception/Pin Swap**
The Pin Swap will take place during the Opening Night Reception. Swap your pins or beads with other conference-goers over hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Keep it clever, simple and inexpensive. The Pin Swap is an informal and fun opportunity for seasoned and new conference attendees to meet one another. If you plan to participate, make and bring pins to trade and give out; generally speaking bringing from 30 to 50 pins works, while some people bring 100. However many you bring – the Pin Swap is all about having fun!

**Student Mixer**
This is a wonderful opportunity for students attending the conference to relax and network with their peers in a great local setting. Get connected – don’t miss this event! The Student Mixer will be held from 9-12 pm on Wednesday, March 5.

**Connections Room: Portfolio Review/Educator Room**
The Connections Room is a forum for students, emerging artists, and art professionals to connect, which includes both the Portfolio Review and the Educator Room. Portfolio Reviews are for emerging artists and graduating students to receive professional advice and guidance from professionals in the field. The Educators Room includes education representatives from universities, colleges, schools, art centers, and other educational opportunities across the United States who will be available to answer questions and present information about their various programs.

**Gallery Night Tour**

**Vendor Room Reception**

**Friends of SNAG Program**
Exclusive annual special program for collectors and advocates. Special tours of Savannah museums, galleries, and studios, receptions and more in addition to all regular conference programming. More information about this program can be found through www.snagmetalsmith.org or contact coordinator Kiwon Wang with questions: kiwonwang@aol.com

**Final Night Dance Party**
Celebrate and dance the night away with friends old and new.
Air Travel:
Savannah is served by the Savannah Hilton Head International Airport (SAV). SNAG has arranged a 10% travel discount on the lowest available fares with AirTran Airways, for attendees who book flight reservations directly with the AirTran Event Savers desk.

To take advantage of this special discount, contact the AirTran Airways EventSavers Desk at 1-866-683-8368 for reservations. Provide them with Event Code: SAV030508.

Shuttle Service:
Grey Line Airport Express Shuttle serves the Savannah Airport; reservations may be made directly through the www.lowcountryadventures.com or by calling the toll-free number, 800-845-5582 at least 24 hours prior to arrival.

Identify yourself as a SNAG conference attendee and use PIN # 36925 to receive the preferred group rate of $26.00 per person/round trip from the Savannah International Airport. Reservations are needed to guarantee a seat and receive the discounted rate.

Need a Roommate?
Contact Savannah Room Share Coordinator Elissa Frankino, efrankino@yahoo.com or 912-713-4953 by January 25, 2008. Room Share requests will not be processed after January 25.

Cancellation Policy and Refunds:
Cancellations made by January 30, 2008 will be refunded minus a $50 cancellation fee. After January 30, there will be a $100 cancellation fee. The final date to receive any refund is February 25, 2008. There are no refunds for no-shows.

For More Information:
For full conference information and details, FAQs and to register online, visit the conference pages at www.snagmetalsmith.org. Need more information? Contact Evangelina Sundgrenz: conference@snagmetalsmith.org, or 541-345-5690.

Register for the conference AND make hotel reservations online at www.snagmetalsmith.org

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