

Interview With Barb Baur
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Question: How long have you been making jewelry?

Answer: I actually began making jewelry in grade school. I became an apprentice in high school, and have always been working in the field in one form or another since then.

Question: What inspires you? Are there any running themes in your work?

Answer: I am most inspired by people and ideas. My best ideas come when I am trying to convey a certain experience that has spoken to me.

Question: What do you enjoy about teaching?

Answer: I enjoy sharing my knowledge and my art with other people. I also think it is important that artists have supportive teachers, not just critical teachers, and I attempt to be supportive of all students at all levels.

Question: You're currently a student. What is it like to go back to school at your age?

Answer: It's exciting. I look forward to working with other crafts besides jewelry, and look forward to expanding my knowledge of jewelry and metalworking. I believe in lifelong learning. I'm thrilled with the opportunity to connect with other artists as we learn together.

Question: You work in both lost wax casting and pierced metal paradigms. Which do you prefer? Why?

Answer: That's a hard question. I love piercing. The jewelers saw was the first tool I used as an apprentice and it feels like an extension of me. But working in wax frees my designs from the two dimensional look and I feel like a sculptor as I carve and build wax models. I can't say I prefer one over the other.

Question: Why did you become a jeweler?

Answer: I have always been an artist, but jewelry attracted me more than any other craft. I've always loved the idea of making something beautiful, durable and wearable that expresses something about the person wearing it. I've worked in clothing in my late teens and early 20s, but as an art it seemed too transient. Jewelry has more of a durability to it.

Question: Besides jewelry making, what other artistic endeavors do you enjoy?

Answer: I dance, I draw, I paint, and I enjoy photography. I like to think that my entire life is an artistic endeavor. I follow and facilitate The Artist Way by Julia Cameron and my morning pages help me to stay focused on living a creative life.