

RiverArtsFest, Inc.
Art Education Conversations: Brandy Boyd and Eric Echols

Artist: Brandy Boyd

Brandy Boyd wears many hats- but metalsmith and teacher are her favorites. Empowering people to explore their creative potential, connect with the world around them through making, and pass on the knowledge of how to do that are driving forces for her. She hopes to inspire the curiosity that was nurtured in her in others, regardless of age or walk of life.

www.bmb-designs.com

https://www.instagram.com/bmb_designs/

<https://www.facebook.com/BMBDesignsArtJewelry>

Affiliations: AMCAW.org, Enamel Society, Camp PMC, ArtClay World

Art Educator: Eric Echols

Eric is an Art Educator with Memphis-Shelby County Schools, an artist/photographer, and custom framer that takes his work beyond just creating art and taking photos. He graduated from LeMoyne-Owen College with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master's of Arts in Education from Union University. His love for vintage antiques, history, and art drives him to celebrate and capture strength, resilience, courage, and love through his art and photography.

www.soulifephotography.com

<https://www.instagram.com/soulifephotography>

Affiliations: TAA (Tennessee Art Academy), NEA (National Education Association)

What can the metalworking techniques of chasing and repoussé be used for?

- Participants will be able to explore and investigate historical uses for repoussé in order to create designs using pushing tools to create shapes, lines, and shallow volume in metal while engaged in a hands-on-activity.
- Document the process of developing ideas reflecting awareness of personal experiences, interests, and art-making approaches.
- Research and connect an unfamiliar subject to personal experiences to develop meaning through art-making.

Essential Questions:

- How is this technique used in our modern lives?
- How does art help us understand the lives of people of different times, places, and cultures?
- How does art transform into something functional for everyday use?

Procedures

- Participants will identify artworks and utilitarian objects that are made from metal, specifically items that could be made from sheets of metal that are raised into volumetric forms.
- Participants will identify tools that could be used to work with metal.
- Participants will learn about mark making in metal and using chasing/repoussé to add volume to flat sheets of metal.

Materials

- 4x4 inch thin copper sheets (28-30 gauge)

- Foam craft sheets or similar materials (folded dishtowels, take out box foam, even cardboard)
- Pencils and/or stylus tools
- Masking tape (for the edges)

Central Theme of Conversation

The idea that we all have something to offer, creatively and in the visual arts, is central to our talk. Making things is good for our brains and our mental health, and opening doors for people to be able to explore different kinds of creativity is vital. There are many skills and art forms that have been lost to the annals of time due to keeping knowledge secret and it's important, especially in a time when information is so easy to share, that we keep those lines of communication open and keep those traditions going.

Key Understandings

- Metalsmithing is for anyone of any age and from any walk of life.
- Metalsmithing has a longstanding historical tradition.
- Metalsmithing touches almost all aspects of our lives, whether we realize it or not. From our cars to our flatware, we are always interacting with objects made of metal, and even though most are made by machines now, the understanding of how they are made dates back hundreds if not thousands of years.
- Chasing and repoussé- a metalworking technique that uses punches, hammers, and support media to push flat metal into 3-dimensional shapes. Sometimes the technique is called embossing. Chasing is what is done to the front of the piece, while repoussé is pushing from behind to create a 3D form.
- Metal has malleability- meaning, it can be pushed, pulled, stretched, and manipulated with tools to create a variety of shapes.

Examples:

- King Tut's Burial Mask
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Repouss%C3%A9_and_chasing#/media/File:King_Tut_Burial_Mask.jpg
- Columbian mask
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Repouss%C3%A9_and_chasing#/media/File:Museo_del_Oro_Tierradentro_golden_face.jpg
- Statue of Liberty
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Repouss%C3%A9_and_chasing#/media/File:Statueofliberty.jpg

Discussion Question:

- How is this technique used in our modern lives?

For more information:

<https://www.metalmuseum.org/>

<https://www.ganoksin.com/article/goldsmithing-repousse-chasing/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Repouss%C3%A9_and_chasing

<https://www.cooksongold.com/blog/learn/chasing-and-repousse-techniques-for-beginners/>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/blogs/metkids/2020/regal-repousse>

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