

SINCE 1947

# LAPIDARY JOURNAL JEWELRY ARTIST

APRIL 2015

Create a cross with **FLAIR AND EDGE**

Fun and flirty **TASSELS**



Easy **RESIN PENDANT**

**IMPROVE YOUR METAL STAMPING**

Get this Kit for Professional Results!  
**DETAILS INSIDE PAGE 14**

As seen in:  
**COOL TOOLS & HIP TIPS!**



Jeff Fulkerson's Candelaria Turquoise and Sterling Cross  
**PAGE 20**



US/CAN \$6.99

04

Display until May 4, 2015

[jewelryartistmagazine.com](http://jewelryartistmagazine.com)

# THEIR

a gallery of this issue's contributors

# TURN



PHOTO: COURTESY  
ETIENNE PERRET

## ETIENNE PERRET'S Cindy Engagement Ring

18K white gold, black ceramic bands, purple colored diamond

Trends  
Page 36



## PHIL RENATO'S Anticlast Bracelet

Photopolymer plastic

"What's the Best Class You've Ever Taken?"  
Page 54

PHOTO: PHIL RENATO



PHOTO: BARBARA BRIGGS

## BARBARA BRIGGS'S Relic Pendant

Silver, brass, epoxy resin clay, bronze metal clay, faceted pearl

"Resin Sea Flower Pin-Pendant" Page 30



## HARRIETE ESTEL BERMAN'S Sun Grown Bracelets

Recycled tin cans, wood, handmade paper

"What's the Best Class You've Ever Taken?"  
Page 54

PHOTO: PHILIP COHEN

**HELEN DRIGG'S  
Pescado Brooch**

Recycled steel, recycled silk and cotton, vintage brass button, copper, brass

Cool Tools & Hip Tips  
Page 14



PHOTO: JIM LAWSON



**EMIKO OYE'S  
Portrait Neckpiece**

Repurposed LEGO®, recycled laminate, steel wire, sterling silver

"What's the Best Class You've Ever Taken?"  
Page 54

PHOTO: COURTESY EMIKO OYE



PHOTO: COURTESY ARLENE MORNICK

**ARLENE MORNICK'S  
Shadowbox Series Pendant**

Fine silver metal clay, dichroic glass

"Metal Clay Double Spinner Ring"  
Page 42

"Moving Metal Clay Ring"  
Page 48



PHOTO: COURTESY JEFF FULKERSON

**JEFF FULKERSON'S Inlaid Belt Buckle**

Sterling silver, turquoise, lapis, malachite, fossilized ivory, dinosaur bone, sugilite, coral

"Candelaria Turquoise and Sterling Cross"  
Page 20

**? WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?**

Share your expertise with other readers in a project, demo, or article and you'll be invited to show an example of your work here. Contributors' guidelines can be requested by emailing [MWhite@Interweave.com](mailto:MWhite@Interweave.com), subject line: LJJG Guidelines.

# What's the Best Class You've Ever Taken?

Answers to this question from 10 jewelry artists

BY SHARON ELAINE THOMPSON

You're never finished learning or improving, either as an artist or a human being. Sometimes a class is just what you need to give your creative or business skills a boost. The class you take that has nothing to do with jewelry making may change your life or completely shake up your work.

We asked a number of jewelry artists to name the most memorable class they've ever taken. The answers range from the first class they took, to a workshop with a respected artist, to a business class, to something as simple — and as complex — as an exercise class. Sometimes all it takes is a magazine.

Where will your creative inspiration come from? Just remember: It's never too late to learn!

## Phil Renato

"The most transformative class I've taken was called *The History of Body Adornment*, with Mary Lee Hu at the University of Washington in 2002. Before I worked with Mary and discussed issues such as those in

this course, I was almost entirely convinced that my work was about me, about materials, about processes, about making stuff that popped into my head. In 10 weeks, we moved from humans covering themselves with mud in caves to Thracian goldsmithing, Victorian chatelaines, and through to body piercing and conceptual jewelry. Mary would have us try to understand the centrality of what we wear in who we are. While my own work is still far too focused on me, that has been an essential point of view in helping to train a new generation of jewelers that make work for other people, rather than entirely for their own ends."

*Phil Renato is the Chair of the Allesee Metals/Jewelry Design Program, Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, Michigan.*

## Micki Lippe

"I took a class at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri about 35 years ago. I had two kids, and I really wanted jewelry to be my career. This three-week class really helped me get that ball rolling. The most important part for me was the week with Robert Ebendorf. He talked about many things but one of the best was 'playing.' Take some time and just 'play.' Cut up file folders, bend wire . . . it does not really matter what it is. Do not think about what you are going to make, just have fun. We get all rigid in our thinking and that stymies our creativity. We need to give ourselves permission to do whatever comes into our heads!"

"The other thing that was really important to me was the time I spent in Germany sharing a studio with Andrea Wipperman, who had a commission for a sculpture to commemorate the birth of a local poet that was rather a cult figure. As I watched her process, she first had several artists she admired come for coffee at the studio. From those discussions and her own ideas, she made one model, which I thought was great. Then she pushed that idea and made another model. Then she pushed *that* idea and made the final piece, which was outstanding. From that, I learned not to be satisfied with your first idea. Push it. Move further than you thought you could."

*Micki Lippe is a jewelry artist based in Seattle, Washington.*



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE

### Phil Renato

Mondo Tork Neckpiece  
Painted ABS plastic, found mirrors

PHOTO: PHIL RENATO

### Micki Lippe

Necklace  
Canadian pennies, sterling silver, 22K gold, hematite

PHOTO: MICKI LIPPE

### Phil Renato

Scuaroid Bracelet  
Painted ABS plastic

PHOTO: PHIL RENATO



SEE MORE WORK

their turn » PAGE 8



**Lexi Erickson**  
Bolo  
Goldstone,  
sterling silver  
PHOTO:  
JIM LAWSON



## Lexi Erickson

"I started out as an archaeologist, so archaeology has inspired me tremendously. After learning the basics at the university, I've been blessed to study with some of the most highly respected teachers in the US. I've learned so much from my mentor, Harold O'Connor, one of the foremost teachers in the world. He has influenced my designs so much. I share tips I learned from him with my students. Although I've taken several classes with him, it has been his friendship which has truly advanced my jewelry design.

"For actual workshops, one was with gifted teacher, Julie Jerman-Melka, of Flying Anvil Designs. She taught me some great hammer techniques and textures. (Sadly, she is no longer teaching but I am so grateful she did). Another great class was with Marne Ryan. Gosh! Texture! She is the one to teach me that sterling does indeed fuse to sterling and that a small amount of gold will put the right pizzazz on a piece. She taught me to love opals, too. My friend David Huang inspired me with his richly colored patinas.

*"Don't settle for what you know you can achieve. Focus on the biggest impact you can have, then commit and be ambitious."*

## learn more from lexi erickson

- How to Solder Jewelry (videos)
  - How to Solder Jewelry (ebook)
  - Soldering 911 (on demand web seminar)
  - Setting Stones with Bezels (video)
  - Artisan Bails (video)
  - Jewelry Etching on Copper (video)
- > [shop.jewelrymakingdaily.com](http://shop.jewelrymakingdaily.com)

"Texture and color from these fabulous teachers have changed my life and my designs, which are inspired by Harold. It really doesn't get any better than this. Don't ever pass up an opportunity to study with one of these fabulous instructors."

*Lexi Erickson is a contributing editor to Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist and the President of Wubbers University. She has made multiple best-selling DVDs for Interweave on soldering, stone setting, bail design and copper etching.*

## Arthur Hash

"The first class that had a big impact on me was my beginning level metalsmithing class taught by David Shea in the Crafts/Material Studies program at Virginia Commonwealth University. David inspired me and challenged me. He started all of his classes the same way, telling us: 'You are not going to make anything new.' It was his way of challenging his students, begging us to impress him. It was not easy.

"The second class that stuck with me was a woodworking class of all things, taught by Karl Burkheimer in the Crafts Department at VCU. This class changed the way I worked. It slowed me down and forced me to pay attention to details. You can't put wood back once you cut it off. It taught me to respect the material and to really make a plan before hacking into something.

“The last set of classes that helped me decide this is what I wanted to do with the rest of my life was my graduate seminar courses in Metalsmithing and Jewelry Design at Indiana University. They helped me see what I was doing and helped build my identity as a jeweler/designer.”

Arthur Hash is an assistant professor and area coordinator for the Metalsmithing & Jewelry Design program at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina.

## Michael David Sturlin

“The best class I’ve ever taken was *Marketing Designer Jewelry* with Alan Revere at the Revere Academy in 1994. It was a transitional moment in my career. This single day of information propelled me further in my career than the 25 years leading up to it, covering as it did so many diverse business topics, including the 4 P’s of pricing, promotion, placement, and publicity. I sincerely doubt I would have accomplished all of what I have in the years following without this very beneficial experience.”

Michael David Sturlin is an educator, industry consultant, and award-winning goldsmith. He is a faculty member of the Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts.

## learn more from michael david sturlin

- Master the Jeweler’s Saw (video)
- Create the Perfect Workspace (video)
- Jewelry Bench on the Fly (video)
- How to Transfer Sawing Patterns (video)
- Find Your Own Second Opinion (*Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist*, September/October, 2013)

> [shop.jewelrymakingdaily.com](http://shop.jewelrymakingdaily.com)



**Michael David Sturlin**  
Citrine Repoussé Pendant  
Gold, citrine, diamond  
PHOTO: JON BALINKIE/CAMERA-WERKS



**ABOVE**  
**Emiko Oye**  
Emiko-o Reware Bracelets  
Repurposed LEGO®, sterling  
silver, rubber cord  
PHOTOS: COURTESY EMIKO OYE

**LEFT**  
**Emiko Oye**  
Maharajah’s 6th Neckpiece  
Collection of Los Angeles  
County Museum of Art  
Repurposed LEGO®, rubber  
cording, sterling silver

## Emiko Oye

“I mostly take business marketing classes or listen to webinars. I generally get inspired by talks or conferences that have a broader audience and at first appearance don’t seem to have anything to do with craft until the talk progresses and the dots connect. American Craft Council is good at putting together conferences in this manner.

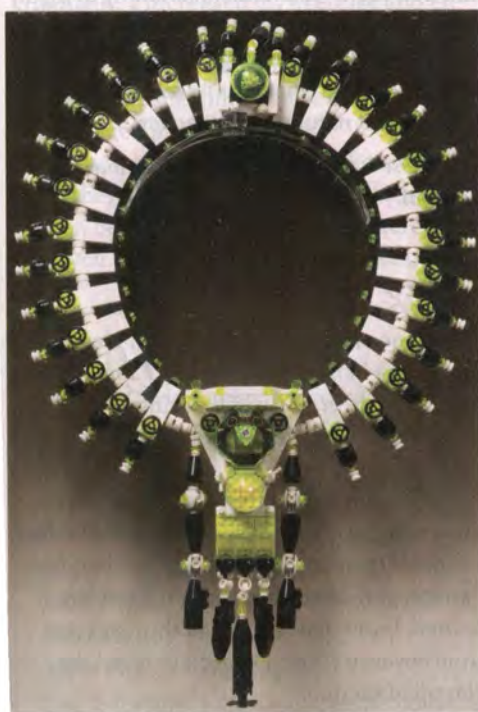
“I went to the Nearly Impossible Conference in San Francisco last September hosted at Heath Ceramics and really was revved up by Google Venture’s Rick Klau’s talk: *Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) — Setting Goals*. Biggest take away: Don’t settle for what you know you can achieve. Focus on the biggest impact you can have, then commit and be ambitious. It only takes an hour every quarter to do, yet I’ve never seriously done this for my business. Eye opener.”

Emiko Oye is a jewelry designer based in San Francisco, California.

## learn more from emiko oye

Leather, Paper or Plastic?  
(*Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist*, September/October, 2013)

> [shop.jewelrymakingdaily.com](http://shop.jewelrymakingdaily.com)



During Kate Wolf's *Rings, Rings, Rings* workshop, Kelly Conroy and other students learned different wax carving techniques and how to set their flex shafts up as lathes.

PHOTO: COURTESY KELLY CONROY



## Kelly Conroy

"A class that really inspired me, and where I felt like I learned so much, was the *Rings, Rings, Rings* workshop I took with Kate Wolf up in Portland, Maine this past summer. It focused on carving wax rings for a faceted stone. But we also learned how to set up our flex-shaft handle as a mini lathe to make a variety of different wax bands and bezels for round stones. It's incredible the talent and information she has and shared. I left there wishing I had three more days to continue working with her."

*Kelly Conroy is a jewelry artist based in Boston, Massachusetts.*



find more  
jewelry-making  
classes

See our extensive listing of jewelry-making classes online in the Jewelry-Making Class Directory on JewelryMakingDaily.com. Classes are organized by city, state, and country. Make sure to add your own class offerings in the forum!

[jewelrymakingdaily.com/forums/t/5304](http://jewelrymakingdaily.com/forums/t/5304)



**Kerin Rose**  
Rose Necklace  
Argentium sterling silver  
PHOTO: COURTESY KERIN ROSE

## Kerin Rose

"I love to cross pollinate, to jog my creative process by taking workshops in unfamiliar media, like glass casting or ceramics. I then try to find ways to translate what I learn to my jewelry making. It's really my favorite thing to do, even if I am uncomfortable, which I often am.

"Two years ago I took a week-long workshop at a bronze foundry in southern Vermont — just me and a couple of big men, contractors looking to create and cast their own handles and knobs for homes they were building. At the end, I was the only one comfortable with the molten metal and fire, and I got to pour their molds! It was so much fun! It began my desire to create larger scale non-functional work, and move away from jewelry in the next few years. So that workshop felt life changing.

"The best jewelry-making workshop I have ever taken was with the amazing Kate Wolf in Portland, Maine. I already knew how to carve, having been taught by a friend of my dad as a kid and, later, by a classically trained jeweler from Germany. But what is magical about Kate's methods is that you learn to trust your eyes and really use your instincts. Her approach to working wax is truly organic, and she is just so wise! She is a consummate artist, constantly creating new ways to work and new tools. Add to that her ability to instill confidence in just about anyone, and hilarious personality. Learning from her changed my approach to what I do. What a great gift from a great natural born teacher!"

*Kerin Rose is a jewelry artist based in Burlington, Vermont.*

## Greg Genovese

"I took no class to learn what I do. I learned everything I know from reading *Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist*. It's just that simple. My dad bought me a rock tumbler for Christmas when I was 10. I was hooked! I put the tumbler in the basement next to the washer and it went on for 30 days. When the rocks were finished, I showed them to everyone. My teacher, Mrs. Sandra, gave me my first copy of *Lapidary Journal*. From that day, I read the magazine from cover to cover. I especially loved the classified section.



## learn more

from greg genovese

A Drusy Like Midnight (*Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist*, March, 2014)

> [shop.jewelrymakingdaily.com](http://shop.jewelrymakingdaily.com)

"At first, I had no money, so I simply read all the names of the rocks that were offered. When I was 12, I landed a job working after school. I made \$3.00 a week and I saved every penny. After a month, I had \$12.00 and I asked my Dad to get me a money order at the Post Office. I ordered a mixed selection of slabs from a dealer in Oregon. Forty-eight years later, I still love rocks. Right now, I'm in Brazil, cutting 900 pounds of 'Sleeping Drusy' and preparing for the Tucson show."

*Greg Genovese is a renowned lapidarist and gem cutter based in Cape May, New Jersey.*

## Harriete Estel Berman

"Twenty-four years ago, I attended an exercise class for the first time. Prior to that, I thought fitness classes were for athletes — but I am an artist. My epiphany was that regular exercise is the only way to maintain my health, weight, and physical abilities. Gradually, I increased my exercise and enthusiasm for staying fit. It became a passion — and get this! — now I lead six exercise classes a week leading others in fitness. It has changed my life.

"I know lots of artists and makers don't think they have time for exercise. Nothing can be further from the truth. Exercise gives you energy, improves your health, and

### FIND THEM

Michael David Sturlin: [revereacademy.com](http://revereacademy.com)

Harriete Estel Berman: [harriete-estel-berman.info](http://harriete-estel-berman.info)

Phil Renato: [philrenato.com](http://philrenato.com)

Micki Lippe: [looselyhinged.com](http://looselyhinged.com)

Arthur Hash: [arthurhash.com](http://arthurhash.com)

Emiko Oye: [rewarestyle.com](http://rewarestyle.com)

Kelly Conroy: [kellyjeanconroy.com](http://kellyjeanconroy.com)

Kerin Rose: [kerinrose.com](http://kerinrose.com)

Lexi Erickson: [lexiericksondesigns.com](http://lexiericksondesigns.com)



**ABOVE**  
Harriete Estel Berman  
Golden Girl Bracelets  
Recycled tin cans, wood,  
handmade paper  
PHOTO: PHILIP COHEN



**LEFT**  
Harriete Estel Berman  
Push Yourself Flower Pin  
Recycled tin cans  
PHOTO: COURTESY HARRIETE  
ESTEL BERMAN

reduces the amount of time dealing with health problems and expense of medications. Exercise gives you the strength and energy for a longer healthier life. I also find that the exercise time gives me a mental break to view my daily studio work from a different perspective. New ideas or approaches emerge so that I return to the studio with renewed enthusiasm."

*Harriete Estel Berman is a jewelry artist based in the San Francisco area.*

**SHARON ELAINE THOMPSON** has written for *Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist* since 1987. Her book, *Good Bones: the Elements and Principles of Design for Jewelry Makers*, is coming soon from Brynmorgen Press. You can learn more about her at [sharonelainethompson.com](http://sharonelainethompson.com).

## See More Classes in This Issue

PAGE  
**FOCUS ON EDUCATION 72**