

Karen Snyder



Karen Snyder has graduated with a degree in metalsmithing from Drake University. While in school she won first place in two categories of the student exhibition of her graduating year. She has worked as a studio assistant, a bench jeweler and more recently in retail management in sales. Karen is continuing her love of metalsmithing as an emerging artist and has since created many new wearable pieces. She prefers to work in larger three dimensional work and loves the construction and engineering factor of creating these pieces. While still utilizing traditional methods such as fabrication, marriage of metal, etc., she pushes to create pieces that are outside of the traditional realm. Each piece that she creates has focus on three dimensional design and has many sculptural aspects to them while challenging the idea of wearability.

Karen is a member of the Society of North American Goldsmiths (SNAG) and Midwest Metalsmiths.

Karen also has a love of antique tools and enjoys carrying the legacy of her grandfather who was a structural engineer at Wheelabrator here in town and was a self taught gunsmith and hand engraver. Her favorite tool that he gave her personally was a body finishing hammer that was used by a relative at the Studebaker plant. Knowing someone else used these tools to create amazing things empowers her to carry on the craft.

“I look forward to empowering others to create three dimensional metal pieces and teach them there are no limits”