

Outline and Course Description:

- Uplevel basic bench skills through traditional fabrication technique with hand tools and flexshaft. Belle is trained as a traditional goldsmith and will instruct students in European style professional bench practice. Students will be instructed on the traditional way to use a bench pin and hold tools for best practice. We will be working on our fine motor skills at the bench, using hand tools and the flexshaft. We will not be doing anything the quick and easy way with bench grinders or wheels on stationary motor driven machines. This practice allows for more precision and provides an avenue for students to grow and develop the fine motor skills necessary to move into more advanced jewelry practice.
- Design practice and layout – from concept to completion. Students will make a ring of their own design or they may choose to make a sample design. Regardless of this choice Belle will share her design process with the students and students will complete a design exercise to trigger creativity.
- Instruction of proper soldering technique for larger jewelry pieces and how to pick solder efficiently. This technique is much more efficient than laying solder chips in place, it is easy to learn and allows for more versatility in soldering. We will also cover proper torch technique, and discuss prevention and removal of firescale.
- Learn professional production shop finishing techniques with the flexshaft. High end jewelry isn't made on a wheel or tumbled in a machine, it is hand finished. This is a huge part of what separates the novice from the professional and it isn't taught in most schools or workshops.
- Practice and implement flush setting stones. We will use burs and burnishers to flush set faceted stones. This takes an hour to learn and a lifetime to master, it is an essential skill, and adds decadence and professionalism to your work.