

Ethical Metalsmiths

Connecting People with Responsibly Sourced Materials

Re: Source

Newsletter No. 2

December 2008

It has been shocking to learn that the precious metals and gems that are integral to our work are shadowed by a dubious past. None of us made a decision to work with silver mined by children or gold leaving a trail of mercury contamination. No one believes that supporting armed conflict or polluting rivers to make jewelry is acceptable. No one thinks mining should have absolute priority over all other public land uses in the US. No one knowingly wants to make, buy or wear jewelry that is tarnished by such practices.

Although mining issues are complex and far reaching, we believe that well-informed metalsmiths and jewelers, because of their deeper knowledge and connection with materials and their understanding of the cultural and social values of jewelry, have a unique perspective and potential to bring about needed changes. This is why we founded Ethical Metalsmiths.

The transition to a more ethical industry is not solely in the hands of mining corporations, or contained in initiatives drafted by jewelry manufacturers, in the efforts of NGOs or in the hands of fate. Artist and activist Rebecca Solnit expressed it this way, "...change happens as much by inspiration and catalyst as by imposition." A better world is possible and we believe that jewelers and metalsmiths, designers, artists, educators, and students are well-suited to motivate change.

We have traveled many miles and spent thousands of hours giving thoughtful attention to mining issues, organizing dialogues, lecturing, being interviewed, writing, teaching, networking with various organizations and creating innovative projects.

The response has been amazing. Our international audience of nearly 1500 subscribers increases almost daily. Our work is challenging and we appreciate your support. In addition to doing what we otherwise do in our lives, we have juggled time zones and work schedules to find time for conference calls to plan and coordinate our activities.

Unfortunately, it proved to be even more difficult than we imagined. After working together for three years, we have decided to phase out working together as a team. We share a mission but have decided to pursue it in different ways, allowing each of us to make the best and most productive use of our time, resources and abilities. We plan to build upon our common work together as we go forward. Ethical Metalsmiths continues, co-directed by Susan and Christina. Jennifer is available for consulting work with clients on ethical sourcing, product certification and policy reform. Read full announcement. ([download pdf](#))

We all thank you for your support.
Jennifer Horning, Susan Kingsley and Christina Miller

Where can I buy responsibly mined or recycled gold and silver? Where can I buy ethical wedding rings?

We are asked these questions nearly every day. We support the establishment of widely accepted standards, third party certification and transparency in the supply chain, from mine to market. It is our hope and our mission to be able to provide a list of ethical sources. In the last four years, there has been progress in the establishment standards for large scale mining, artisanal and small scale mining and gold recycling. A number of initiatives and organizations have been formed for that purpose, including the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA), Madison Dialogue, the Council for Responsible Jewelry Practices (CRJP) and Association for Responsible Mining (ARM). Time and broad participation of the mining and jewelry industries, trade organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations and certification entities is needed to establish a credible and transparent system, and we must be patient. We are in the process of developing a list of suppliers that are actively working on ethical sourcing and plan make that list available soon. You can continue to help support Ethical Metalsmiths efforts by taking steps outlined on the [WHAT YOU CAN DO](#) section of our Web site and by making an [online donation](#).

In this issue:

- [Radical Jewelry Makeover!](#)

- [Ethical Metalsmiths go to Washington: Reforming the General Mining Law of 1872](#)
- [Online Exhibition - Composting Good and Evil: Redesign for Sanctimonious Sinners](#)
- [Ethical Metalsmiths take part in Madison Dialogue Ethical Jewelry Summit](#)
- [ROAD TRIP: Going where metalsmiths have never gone before](#)
- [Artisanal and Small Scale Mining \(ASM\) Update](#)
- [Ethical Metalsmiths in Action](#)
- [Ethical Metalsmiths in the News](#)
- [Guest Contributors: Kirsten Muenster and Barrio-Neal, Anna Barrio and Page Neal](#)
- [Take Action: Your help is needed](#)
- [Take Action: Support Ethical Metalsmiths with a Tax-Deductible Donation](#)

Radical Jewelry Makeover!



Radical Jewelry Makeover (RJM) is Ethical Metalsmiths' innovative community mining project that raises awareness of the connection between mining, metalsmithing, activism, collaboration and art. It involves volunteer miners, smelters, refiners, jewelers and metalsmiths working together to effect a new and transparent supply chain. The project is both performance and event, linking recycling, reuse and collaborative work sessions with the creation of unique, innovative, handmade jewelry, concluding with an exhibition and reception. The project was designed and developed by Christina Miller and metalsmith, Susie Ganch.

This is how our innovative project works. We are asking the public to "mine" their homes, "uncovering" gold, silver, and jewelry of all types and materials that are no longer used and deposit their "lode" at a designated place. Teams of volunteer jewelers and metalsmiths working at schools and studios in different locations reconstruct and transform the donations into exciting new jewelry designs. In donating their skill and imagination, the artists inspire people to think about jewelry and materials in exciting new ways. The resulting fresh, unique, handmade, 100% recycled jewelry is then exhibited. Donors receive discount coupons and profit from sales to benefit Ethical Metalsmiths' efforts to educate and connect people with responsibly sourced materials and support future Editions of RJM.. Two highly successful "editions" took place in 2007, in Richmond, Virginia and Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



Sorted donations
Photo: Jennifer Gans



Jeweler at work
Photo: C. Miller

Radical Jewelry Makeover: San Francisco Edition wrapped up November 9th. More than 200 jewelers participated in the biggest RJM ever! Together they created 400 pieces jewelry (and sculpture), donating thousands of volunteer hours in support of Ethical Metalsmiths. Nine schools, studios and organizations participated including the Academy of Art University, California College of Art, City College of San Francisco, The Crucible, Revere Academy, Richmond Art Center, Scintillant Studios, members of Metal Arts Guild of San Francisco, artists represented by Velvet da Vinci gallery and numerous volunteers. Read the latest entries on the [Radical Jewelry Makeover Blog](#).



Brooch by Kelly Nederman
Photo: Richard Matzinger



Brooch by Raissa Bump.
Photo: Richard Matzinger

Velvet da Vinci, San Francisco's premier art jewelry gallery is hosting the exhibition, which opened October 22 and continues through November 9. The opening reception on October 24 was attended by hundreds, and included many participants. Many attended due to the feature article in October 20, [San Francisco Chronicle](#). Look for selection of work produced during the Radical Jewelry Makeover: San Francisco Edition on the [Velvet Da Vinci](#).

Previous Radical Jewelry Makeovers have taken place in Richmond, Virginia and Lancaster, Pennsylvania. (more details below)



Opening reception at the Velvet Da Vinci in San Francisco. Photo: Jennifer Gans

Ethical Metalsmiths Goes to Washington: Reforming the General Mining Law of 1872

1872

In 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed a mining law intended to promote the settlement of publicly-owned lands in the west. Now, 136 years later, this General Mining Law is still the law of the land! Because the law prioritizes mining over all other uses—including recreation, hunting or fishing, protecting wilderness areas, National Parks, and municipal water sources—these uses are at risk. In addition, the law allows international mining companies to purchase public lands at 1872 prices, no more than \$5 per acre, and pay no royalties for the minerals they extract!

In addition, the Law was enacted without any environmental safeguards, and mining has left tens of thousands of abandoned mine sites across the country. Today, more than forty percent of the headwaters in western watersheds have been polluted by mine tailings, and each year billions of pounds of toxic chemicals are released into the environment. And taxpayers have been left with enormous cleanup costs.

We may not all live in mining affected states, but we all depend upon the metals they produce. As metalsmiths, we have an intimate connection to the metals derived from hardrock mining and we can be an important and unique voice for reform. It is time for the mining industry to be brought into the 21st century and operate with social and environmental standards and fairness that reflect today's values. The House passed a sensible reform bill in November, 2007 that is good for us, the environment, communities and taxpayers.

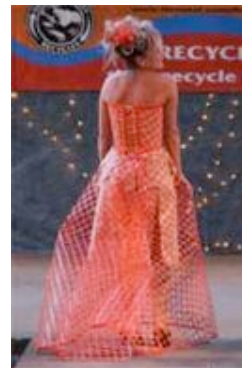
Ethical Metalsmiths has been working to support of a modern mining bill. We held a mini letter-writing campaign at the SNAG conference in March in which many of you participated and mailed over 200 letters to senators. In May, Jennifer traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with senate offices and tell lawmakers that we want reform of the antiquated U.S. mining law, but progress stalled in 2008. We are encouraged that the climate for change will result in General Mining Law reform in 2009.

You can learn more by reading our [US MINING REFORM](#) pages and you can help by visiting our [WHAT YOU CAN DO](#) page.

Online Exhibition—Composting Good and Evil: Redesign for Sanctimonious Sinners



Strictly Rubber Boa, recycled rubber inner tubes, latex, sterling, beads, by Christine Dhein



Construction Barrier Gown, construction fencing, by Elvira Mental Werks

We all know we must reconsider how we use the world's resources. And although we may want to make changes in the way we live, our good

intentions and talk are often undermined by bad habits and the simple inertia of a hectic routine. Tongue-in-cheek, we wondered what would happen if we called upon "sanctimonious sinners" (like ourselves) to repent and to reform. We decided to host another online exhibition, a venue open for worldwide viewing, 24/7.

We imagined a garden of good and evil nourished by a compost pile of temptation, convenience, guilt, hope and inspiration. Our call went out in November, 2007, asking artists to explore the uncomfortable paradox. The call was posted on a number of websites and list serves, sent to metal arts guilds and schools and printed in various newsletters. We were surprised and pleased with the response. After looking at the all the work, we decided we could not "judge" reconsiderations of bad habits. All the work submitted was evidence of thought, skill and transformation. The resulting exhibition operates as a subtly subversive and engaging visual essay about choosing change; it is insightful, humorous, startling, ironic, challenging, beautiful, puzzling, erotic, traditional, thoughtful, accomplished and "other."



Rings, recycled plastic gift cards and silver, by Tabitha Ott

We thank the 89 artists who contributed their work and ideas to this project and for their support of Ethical Metalsmiths. [Composting Good and Evil: Redesign for Sanctimonious Sinners](#) continues online. (Read below about its premier showing in at the Society of North American Goldsmiths conference in Savannah, Georgia.)

Ethical Metalsmiths Take Part in [Madison Dialogue Ethical Jewelry Summit](#)

More than 100 people attended the [Ethical Jewelry Summit](#), held Oct. 25-26, 2007 at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. The meeting was convened to discuss ethical jewelry and small-scale mining issues, with representatives from artisanal and small-scale mines (ASM) and their communities from around the world. Attending the summit were also representatives of governments, donors, certifying organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and large and small commercial organizations (from mine to retail).

The Summit's goal was to explore opportunities for jewelers to improve conditions in the impoverished (ASM) sector worldwide and discuss fair trade certification systems for metals and stones. Often-used terms such as "green," "ethical," "fair trade" and "sustainable" were discussed, as well as the use and marketing of "recycled" precious metals.

Madison Dialogue Summit attendees drafted the following declaration:

We believe there is an opportunity to make a difference in the lives and communities of artisanal/small-scale miners and other marginalized workers worldwide by developing and implementing robust standards for the production of ethical and fair trade metals, diamonds, gems and jewelry. We also encourage governments, where needed, to develop policies and regulations that protect these miners, workers and their communities.

Jennifer was a member of the event's Steering Committee which included representatives from the [Association for Responsible Mining](#) (ARM), [Communities and Small Scale Mining](#) (CASM), the [Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices](#) (CRJP), De Beers, [EARTHWORKS](#), Ethical Metalsmiths, [Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International](#) (FLO), [Jewelers of America](#) (JA), [Partnership Africa Canada](#) (PAC), [Diamond Development Initiative](#) (DDI), and the [Rapaport Group](#).

Jennifer received funding from conference sponsors to work full-time on coordination leading up to the meeting and chairs one of five committees established at the Summit, the recycled precious metals working group. Other groups the following: Ethical Manufacturing, Small Scale Mining of Metals, The Small Scale Mining of Diamonds, and the Small Scale Mining of Colored Gemstones. The metalsmithing community was also represented at the Summit by Society of North American Goldsmiths treasurer Stewart Thomson, and jewelers Anna Barrio, Page Neal and Susan Kingsley. Also attending were well-known suppliers Torry Hoover of [Hoover & Strong](#), and Alan Bell of [Rio Grande](#). [Read more](#)

ROAD TRIP: Going where metalsmiths have never gone before



We know that the clean, shiny, "virgin" metal that arrives at our studios, weighed, wrapped and invoiced, is not where its story actually begins. Gold, silver and copper come from deep within the earth, and most often from remote areas of the world. We wanted the idea of "material sourcing" to be less abstract, and more real. To remedy this, we devised ROAD TRIP: Going where metalsmiths have never gone before, which took place May 16-23, 2007. Susan and Christina drove from Salt Lake City west on Interstate 80, following the route of 19th century wagon trains in an "epic" metalsmith quest for first hand knowledge and "grounded" experience. We imagined ourselves living out the classic "road trip" American movie genre, but without a script or film crew. Each day was an adventure. And, as predictable as a Hollywood ending, we returned home "wiser for our experiences."

First, we visited and pondered the world's largest manmade excavation, Utah's amazing **Bingham Canyon Mine**. The pit is more than 2.5 miles wide and 0.75 of a mile deep, and as of 2004, has produced more than 17 million tons of copper, 23 million ounces of gold, 190 million ounces of silver, and 850 million pounds of molybdenum. It is a National Historic Landmark and operates around the clock. While in Salt Lake City we met with Ivan Weber and learned about the interdisciplinary field of Industrial Ecology. He explained how mining could, instead of short term gain coupled with environmental catastrophe requiring years of reclamation, be the impetus for very long term, sustainable regional planning that does not compromise natural systems or understanding human needs.



The tiny dots are 350-Ton trucks hauling ore in the Bingham Mine



Christina & Susan with ore truck tire

The rest of our trip was spent in Nevada, which has produced 200 million ounces of gold and approximately 9% of the world supply in recent years. If Nevada were a country, it would be the world's third largest producer of gold. In Nevada, we had the good fortune to spend several days with Dan Randolph and Jon Hadder, executive director and staff scientist of **Great Basin Resource Watch**, who answered hundreds of questions with patience and good humor. We can't thank them enough for their camaraderie and for sharing their knowledge and insights.



View of the Pipeline Mine, an open pit gold mine in operation. Photomontage by Susan Kingsley

In our quest for as many experiences as we could fit into this trip, we hiked to a high mountain "perch" and observed the Pipeline Gold Mine in full operation (blasting, 300-ton ore trucks hauling ore and dumping tailings, cyanide leaching, dewatering pumps and blowing dust). Next, we visited an abandoned copper mine where acid streams were rimmed with blue crystals, and the earth reeked of sulfur.



Acid mine drainage at an abandoned mine site in Elko County, Nevada

The following day, Paul M. Pettit and Jeff White of Newmont Mining Corporation gave us a tour of a gold mine that was undergoing remediation followed by a visit to the site of a proposed large gold mine.



Visit to the site of a proposed Newmont mine in Elko County, Nevada

Before leaving the area, we visited with human rights activist Julie Ann Fishel of the **Western Shoshone Defense Project** and were honored to meet Shoshone elder Carrie Dann on her ranch in Crescent Valley. The award winning documentary, **Our Land, Our Life** is the extraordinarily moving story of sisters Mary and Carrie Dan fight to continue ranching on Shoshone land.



Susan and Christina at the Dann Ranch in Crescent Valley, Nevada, with Western Shoshone elder, Carrie Dan (center).

They took us to Mt. Tenebo, the nearby mountain that is sacred to the Western Shoshone and fundamental to their traditions, creation stories and worship. One of the world's largest gold mining companies, Barrick Gold has petitioned the Bureau of Land Management to expand mining onto Mt. Tenabo. This would destroy Shoshone gravesites, disturb ritual grounds and could harm important water sources. ([learn more](#))

We collected a lot of fascinating pictures and rich stories. Coming sometime to our website: ROAD TRIP: Going where Metalsmiths have never gone before.

Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) Update

In recent years, the rising price of precious metals and gems has generated an increase in artisanal and small scale mining activity around world. It employs 11 to 13 million people, and 80 to 100 million depend on ASM for survival. Widespread material poverty in artisanal and small scale mining regions is aggravated by environmental impacts that directly affect ecosystems and human health.

The [Association for Responsible Mining](#) (ARM) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving conditions for artisanal and small-scale miners. Following [ISEAL](#) standards for standard setting, they have created a fair trade standard for ASM, [Standard Zero](#), and are currently [pilot testing](#) it in communities in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The standard also covers other precious metals found at the mine sites, such as silver and platinum. ARM plans to expand Fair Trade certification to other regions and gemstones in the coming years.



Pallaqueras or women miners in Santa Filomena, Peru.

ARM has partnered with [Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International](#) to certify and market materials, such as metals and gemstones mined by artisanal and small-scale miners. Ethical Metalsmiths is looking forward to announcing when the first certified Fair Trade gold is available. You can help move this process forward! ARM is interested in knowing your thoughts concerning Fair Trade gold. Please take a few minutes to to participate in [ARM's Survey](#). For more information about Fair Trade gold, visit the [ARM website](#).

One of the pilot projects testing Standard Zero is Coporacion Oro Verde, in Choco, Columbia. They are finalists in the World Challenge, a competition organized by BBC News, Newsweek and Shell aimed at finding projects or small businesses from around the world that have shown enterprise and innovation at a grass roots level.

Read about [Oro Verde's Certified Green Gold Program](#). You can support Oro Verde in the [World Challenge 08](#) by voting for them before **November 21, 2008**.

Ethical Metalsmiths in Action

In January, 2007, Ethical Metalsmiths sent an action alert, asking you to join us in signing the **Bristol Bay Protection Pledge** – a commitment not to buy or use gold from the proposed Pebble Mine or any other mine on public land in the Bristol Bay, Alaska watershed. It was an opportunity for jewelers to take meaningful action and show our customers and the mining industry our commitment to responsible sourcing. To learn more about this unique area, visit [Save Bristol Bay](#) and [Renewable Resources](#) websites. Learn more in the Assignment Earth Report, [Red Gold: The Pebble Mine Debate, Bristol Bay, Alaska](#).

In February 2007, Jennifer attended **The Rapaport International Diamond Conference** in New York City, which focused on corporate responsibility. It brought together leaders of government, industry and NGO's to discuss the plight of African diggers and begin the process of providing solutions to the problem. Ed Zwick, producer of the movie, "Blood Diamond" addressed the conference along with experts in development, diamonds and social responsibility. Read more about [conflict diamonds](#).

The first **Radical Jewelry Makeover** took place February 21-March 2, 2007 at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. Christina Miller transformed a solo show opportunity into Radical Jewelry Makeover with the creative support of Susie Ganch and with the assistance of Susan Kingsley. Eighty students produced 200 pieces of jewelry that were exhibited at Quirk Gallery. The event received support from Hoover and Strong, Quirk Gallery and Virginia Commonwealth University. The success of the project set in motion Christina and Susie's continuing collaboration.



VCU students examine the donated jewelry.



Christina melting gold and pouring an ingot.



Ring by Adam Whitney



Brooch by Catie Sellers

In April, 2007, Susan and Jennifer attended a joint meeting of EARTHWORKS Partners and Affiliates in Reno, Nevada. Along with **EARTHWORKS**, the organizations are working for clean water, healthy communities and corporate accountability with solutions based on sound science. The groups discussed common interests, priorities and opportunities for collaboration. Along with EARTHWORKS' consultants and Washington, DC staff, attendees included key people from the **Center for Science in Public Participation**, **Great Basin Resource Watch**, **Alaskans for Responsible Mining** and the **Western Shoshone Defense Project**.

While in Nevada, Susan and Jennifer spent a day with other attendees visiting the abandoned, heavily contaminated Anaconda mine site in Yerrington. They also stopped in Grass Valley to visit the historic Empire Mine, which produced 5.6 million ounces of gold between 1852 and 1957. It is now a state historic park.

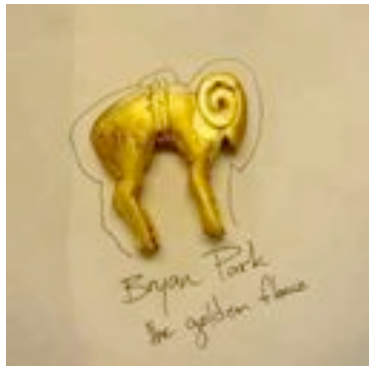


Toxic tailings pile in Yerrington, Nevada.

Christina made several presentations about Ethical Metalsmiths and Radical Jewelry Makeover in 2007. In April and again in September, she talked to students at Franklin and Marshall College, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

In October, 2007, Christina lectured at Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design and Culture in New York City in conjunction with their exhibition *A BRASS MENAGERIE: Metalwork of the Aesthetic Movement*. She researched early American copper mining and was able to connect the objects on exhibition with the origin of their materials and the environmental consequences of earlier mining in the United States.

In June, Christina represented Ethical Metalsmiths at the **Society of North American Goldsmiths** conference in Memphis, Tennessee. More than one hundred attendees signed up to be on the Ethical Metalsmiths' mailing list, and in doing so were entered into a drawing for three pieces of jewelry from the Radical Jewelry Makeover, Richmond Edition. Winners included Chris Patzlaff, president elect of SNAG!



In July 2007, Susan taught a two-week session at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, in Deer Isle, Maine. The workshop was about gold *A Devilish Sort of Thing...* Students mined history and art, mythology and mining, metallurgy, alchemy and consumer culture to uncover a "lode" of golden opportunities while learning about the complex social, political and environmental legacies of gold mining. The class toured a nearby abandoned copper and silver mine in Blue Hill, Maine, that was undergoing remediation due to significant acid mine drainage into the watershed.

The Golden Fleece, by Bryan Park

In September 2007, Jennifer attended the *CLASP: Convergence of Jewelers* conference in Denver, Colorado, where she had the opportunity to meet and talk with many jewelers. We would like to thank Virginia Gourlie for donating her conference registration fee to Ethical Metalsmiths.

The Second Edition of **Radical Jewelry Makeover** took place October 26-November 3, 2007 at Millersville University in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Millersville University's Jewelry and Metal Arts Guild hosted this Edition. The exhibition was held at the Candy Factory Gallery, where a line formed outside prior to the five o'clock opening. Much-needed funds were raised to help Ethical Metalsmiths continue our work.

Jennifer and Susan attended the **Madison Dialogue Ethical Jewelry Summit** in October, in Washington, DC. While there, Jennifer also made calls to representatives and visited offices to urge passage of HR 2262: Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007. Jennifer told the audience of our concerns about where metals are sourced and that independent artists/designers see a natural connection between themselves and artisanal miners. She says there are real opportunities to develop this connection.



Before
Gold donated to RJM



After
Gold pendant by Sara Zentz.

In January, 2008, Jennifer made presentations in San Francisco at the Metals Arts Guild meeting and at the Academy of Art University.

McCaskey High School students in Lancaster, Pennsylvania were inspired to improve their world via Christina's presentation about Ethical Metalsmiths in February, 2008. As a result, Christina was invited to give an Earth Day Workshop about Radical Jewelry Makeover to the local chapter of Students for a Democratic Society.

The three of us attended the Society of North American Goldsmiths conference in March, 2008 in Savannah, Georgia. We sponsored a well-attended *Open Space* discussion for jewelers and metalsmiths interested in sharing their ideas about how to integrate responsible sourcing into a studio practice and/or teaching.



Work by David Edgar on outdoor digital screen

On March 8, we held a reception and screening of our second virtual exhibition, **Composting Good and Evil: Redesign for Sanctimonious Sinners** (described above). It was part of the Society of North American Goldsmiths conference at the College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia. The exhibition appeared on a billboard-sized, digital, outdoor screen, during the "gallery hop," and also indoors (due to rain), in a classroom, where popcorn, appetizers and beverages were served. The exhibition was well received and we were pleased to meet a number of the artists.

During the conference, Jennifer spoke with many people about **1872**, the outdated mining law and the upcoming opportunity for real mining reform. One hundred metalsmiths signed letters to send to their senators, asking them to vote for HR 2262: Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007 which had passed in the House. Ethical Metalsmiths stayed in Savannah for two additional days to plan future projects and events.

Jennifer made a presentation for the Art League of Alexandria, Virginia in May.

In June, Christina taught a two-week course at the Oxbow School of Art in Saugatuck, Michigan. The course, *Ecosystems of Adornment: Investigations in sustainable jewelry* was designed to collaboratively develop responsible methods of working in the context of a traditional jewelry and metalsmithing studio. The course covered the reuse of old jewelry and metal recycling sourced from our community "mine", cradle to cradle design concepts, site specific sourcing as a "green" design strategy, the use of waste products from other studios as a test of sustainability and the continuous assembly and disassembly of objects made during the session.



Artist Allie Sturm wearing her work. Photo by Megan Bandehey



Jennifer was the featured speaker at the Los Angeles Chapter of the Women's Jewelers Association meeting on June 18, where she spoke about sourcing, marketing responsibly mined gems and precious metals and the changes we can expect to see in supply-chain certification.

Jennifer and Christine Dhein, jeweler and faculty member taught a one-day seminar on green jewelry practices at the Revere Academy in August, 2008. The course was designed to help metalsmiths and jewelers answer consumer questions about what it means to be green. It included information on the source of metals and gemstones; green suppliers and how to help promote healthy mining practices; gold testing; ingot making; safe and eco-friendly studio practices; and future green business certification.

Susan contributed an essay to the exhibition catalog for *Deliciously Disposable Earth*, an exhibition curated by Chilean media artist, Carolina Loyola-Garcia. The exhibition, which took place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, examined how physical, biological and emotional "mining" vacillates between the needs of the individual and how it affects the collective. She points out that "as we stand upon precipice of a global economy, we are recognizing the historic consequences of our actions—and the use of our planet." Susan's essay is titled *Gold, Mining and Ethical Metalsmiths*.

Ethical Metalsmiths in the News

We are proud to say that our efforts have been recognized in the news over the past year and a half.

The **Lancaster Intelligencer Journal** published an article about the Radical Jewelry Makeover, commenting that students were learning about the mining industry as well as how to recycle jewelry. One student said, "it opened my eyes to this issue. It has raised my level of awareness to be more mindful about the materials we use." ([download pdf](#))

The Summer 2007 issue of **Fusion, the Journal of the International PMC Guild** (Precious Metal Clay) featured an article about Ethical Metalsmiths' history and mission, *Ethical Issues in the Precious Metals Field*. ([download pdf](#))

Susan and Jennifer were interviewed and quoted in the **Journal of the Manufacturing Jewelers & Suppliers of America** (MJSA) in February, 2008. The article in the Trends and Analysis section was titled The "E" Words: *Ethical and environmental trends grow*. The article addresses the questions, "what actually constitutes green and socially responsible practices, how (or even if) those practices should be marketed, and whether this is really a sea change, or just a trend." ([download article pdf](#))

Christina Miller and Millersville University co-authored an article titled, *Millersville University Art Professor Calls it Blood Gold* about the 1872 Mining Law. The article was published in over thirty online news outlets in March and April, 2008.

Ethical Metalsmiths' participation in the Ethical Jewelry Summit and Radical Jewelry Makeover, Lancaster, PA edition were featured in the Spring 2008, edition of **EARTHWORKS Journal** ([download pdf](#))

In May, 2008, Jennifer was interviewed for **Your Green Report** on an independent San Francisco station, TV 20. The segment was titled *Choosing Eco Friendly Diamonds*.

Susan contributed an op-ed piece to [denverpost.com](#) on September 9th, *Jewelry Maker calls for responsible gold mining*. It coincided with the Denver Gold Forum, a private conference for mining corporations and investment companies to discuss future gold prospects. What wasn't on the agenda, but should have been, is acknowledgement of the serious pollution and human rights concerns that plague the world wide industry or meaningful discussion about how and when they will begin to produce gold more responsibly. The mining industry can and must do better!

Editor Gordon Hamme's recent **Goldsmith** editorial titled *Towards an Ethical Jewellery Industry*, mentions Susan and Christina's presentation in London, England, for the Association of Contemporary Jewellery conference, and the Ethical Metalsmiths web site. ([download pdf](#)).

Guest Contributors: Kirsten Muenster and Bario-Neal, Anna Bario and Page Neal

In this issue of Re:Source we are including guest contributors, [Kirsten Muenster](#), a metalsmith based in San Francisco who uses recycled silver and stones, and [Bario-Neal](#), the design team of Anna Bario and Page Neal formerly known as Rust-Belt. Their jewelry is sourced from re-purposed materials using low-impact, environmentally conscious practices. They have invested considerable time researching ethical sources for their materials, and share their insights and research in these articles. In addition, Page and Anna write a [research blog](#) which includes a lot of interesting and helpful information.



Kirsten Muenster ([download pdf](#))



Bario-Neal ([download pdf](#))

Take Action: Your Help is Needed

One of the best things you can do to help us bring ethical materials to metalsmiths is talk to your suppliers, teachers and colleagues about these issues. Tell them that you are interested in purchasing ethical materials and refer them to our website or have them contact us to learn more about the ongoing dialogue on industry standards and certification. Whether they choose to participate or not, these issues will directly impact the future of our supply chain. We believe that it is better to participate and recognize that there can be significant benefits for our craft rather than sit on the sidelines and have no voice! For other ways you can help, please visit our [website](#).

Take Action: Support Ethical Metalsmiths with a Tax-Deductible Donation

We appreciate your voices in support of responsible mining and of our efforts to unite ethics and metalsmithing. Over the past four years, we have volunteered our time and used our own funds to raise awareness of mining issues and are very proud of what we have accomplished. But the time has come to ask for your financial support. Please help us continue our efforts to provide information to students, metalsmiths and jewelers about mining and recycling issues. Your support can help bring about an internationally-recognized, third-party certification system that reflects metalsmiths' values, is friendly to small businesses and individual artists, and holds credibility within our field and the public.

Save resources by making an [online donation](#) or mail a check to Ethical Metalsmiths, P.O. Box 222492, Carmel CA 93922

We have partnered with EARTHWORKS in order to make your contributions tax deductible. We promise to use your donation frugally and wisely!

Thank you!
Susan Kingsley
Christina Miller



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