

AMSA / UD Mercy Chem Club

American Medallic Sculpture Association

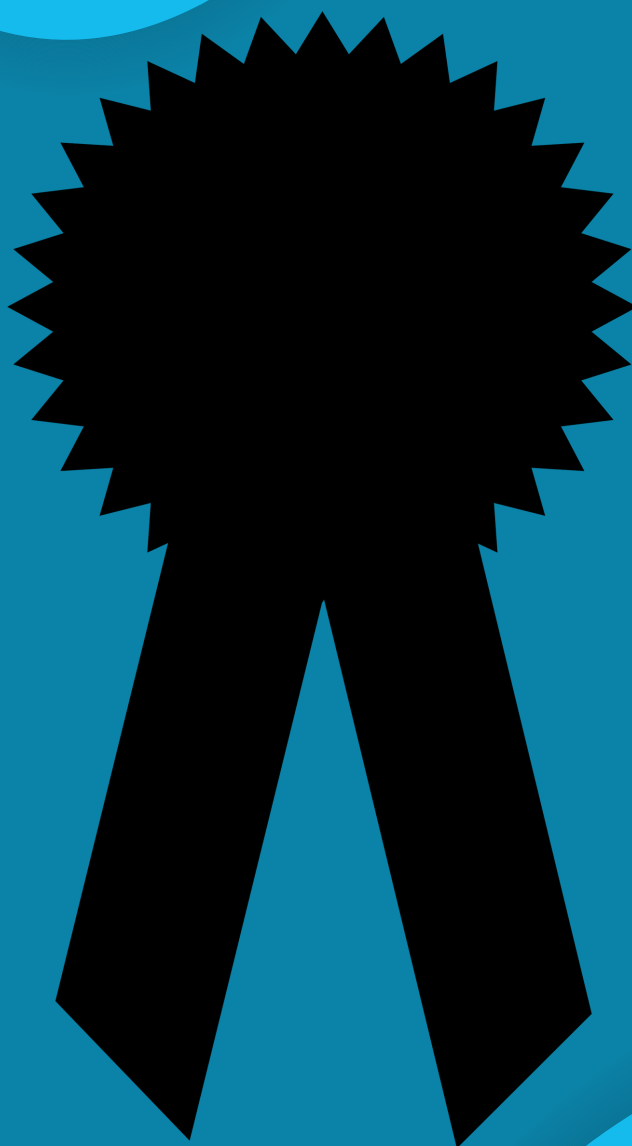


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The logo for the American Medallic Sculpture Association (AMSA) features the acronym "AMSA." in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is set against a white, horizontal brushstroke background that has a textured, painterly appearance with some darker blue and black accents, suggesting a sculptural or artistic theme.

American Medallic Sculpture Association

The American Medallic Sculpture Association
and
The University of Detroit Mercy Chemistry Club
present
A selection of Art Medals



Art medals are a form of artistic expression usually manifested in metal, although at times created in media such as porcelain, plaster of Paris, or mixed media.

Shown here are several art medals created by some of the most accomplished medallists and sculptors in the United States, and indeed, the world. Several of the individuals whose work is displayed here may also have some of their artwork in your pockets, since they have been employed by the United States Mint or the Royal Canadian Mint. Other works that are displayed here are those from artists with well-established careers in both medals and other, often larger, sculptures.

The UDM Student Members chapter of the American Chemical Society (the Chemistry Club) championed this project because the production of medals involves several aspects of chemistry, such as metal flow, chemical patination of finished, metal objects, and surface enhancement of non-metal medals. As well, one of the faculty members in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry incorporates the production of metal alloys and art medals in the General Chemistry I laboratory, a course offered generally to freshmen students within the Engineering & Science College during their first year at UDM.

Joy Kroeger Beckner

“Inspiration” wire

Description:

This medal, “Inspiration” Wire, was inspired by my dachshunds -- and -- the exquisite bas-relief medals modeled by German sculptors Heide Dobberkau (1929) and her husband Werner Niermann. Years ago I fell in love with a medal by Heidi, and when I went back to Medialia Rack & Hamper Gallery in New York City to get it, it was sold out! Soon, I fell in love with, and acquired, other medals by Heidi. My first commission was a series of bas-reliefs of humans for the National Cosmetology Association, after which I took a bas-relief workshop with renowned sculptor, Eugene Daub. I modeled “Inspiration” Smooth, directly in wax at actual size. After that, I started to learn Medal Making 101, ON the job! I hope you enjoy the result of my venture into the refined world of medals. The original bronze “Inspiration” Smooth, was juried into the 2010 FIDEM XXXI Congress and Exhibition, Fédération Internationale de la Médaille d’ Art, The Tampere Museum, Tampere, Finland. Many thanks to Mashiko of Medialia, for granting permission for me to use her elegant design for the custom acrylic stand included with each bronze “Inspiration.”

“Inspiration” Wire, is hand made, one at a time, in Colorado, USA. Each bronze medal is signed, numbered, dated and includes my mark, JKß. Enjoy!



Joy Kroeger Beckner

“Inspiration” Smooth

2010 - AMSA with the ANA, American Medallist Sculpture Association with the American Numismatic Association, Boston, MA

2010 - FIDEM XXXI, Congress & Exhibition, Fédération Internationale de la Médaille d' Art, The Tampere Museum, Tampere, Finland

2013 - American Medallist Sculpture Association, AMSA, Members' Show, Bellevue WA Art Museum Education wing - and - at Brookgreen Gardens, SC.

“Inspiration” was inspired by my dachshunds -- and -- by the exquisite medals modeled by German sculptor Heide Dobberkau (1929). Years ago I fell in love with a medal by Heidi, and when I went back to Medialia Rack & Hamper Gallery in New York City to get it, it was sold out! Soon, I fell in love with, and acquired, other medals by Heidi. My first commission was a series of bas-reliefs of humans for the National Cosmetology Assn., after which I took a bas-relief workshop with sculptor, Eugene Daub. I modeled “Inspiration” directly in wax at actual size. After that I learned ‘Medal Making 101’ on the job, and added a whimsical image on the back of the Artist’s Proofs. I hope you enjoy the result of my venture into the refined world of medals. “Inspiration” is hand made, one at a time, in the USA. Many thanks to Mashiko of Medialia, for granting permission for me to use her elegant design for the custom acrylic stand included with each bronze “Inspiration.”

Each is signed, numbered, and includes my stamp, JKß. Enjoy!



Heather Blume

Self Worth

Medium: Bronze

Year: 2008

Description:

Obverse: Cast bronze art medal of a seated nude woman holding a mirror in her left hand

As a long time advocate of women's rights, I thought the time was right to revisit a medal I made in 2007 but never completed in bronze. The completed bronze medal Self Worth speaks to women's perceptions of themselves. How often we women focus on our exterior appearance at the expense of valuing and developing our inner selves. In light of the Me Too movement it has been heartening to see and hear women of all ages and backgrounds stand up and speak their truth again, we are worth it!



Heather Blume

A Woman's Nature

Medium: Ceramic

Technique: Fired bas relief

Year: 2021

Description:

Obverse: House with varied additions and multiple openings

Like many an artist, I keep a sketchbook/journal handy so I can jot down ideas, quotes, and make sketches when the inspiration strikes me. I often listen to audiobooks in my studio and that is where the idea for this medal came from. It was inspired by a sentence written by Edith Wharton "A woman's nature is like a great house full of rooms." The imagery in those words was immediate. I have often dreamt of being in such a house, one that kept telescoping out to other rooms, each one more complex than the last. The view in this medal approaches the house from the exterior. One thing leads to another; next I expect to create another with interior view on the reverse side.



E Richard Bonham

Spider-

Medium: Bronze/silver

Technique: Fabrication

Year: 2018

Description:

Obverse: Large spider with silver lilies

Reverse: Silver lilies

Medal with a bronze spider and silver lilies



Jeffrey Briggs

Description: Mixed Media

The Sixth Extinction is expected to eliminate a million life forms. Evidence of this human-caused cataclysm is all around us.

Dolphin (left)-

Found only in the Yangtze River, the Baiji dolphin disappeared in The 1980s when China industrialized and exploited the river for fishing, transportation, and hydroelectricity.

Leopard (right)-

The Arabian leopard, native to the Arabian Peninsula, is listed as extinct in the wild. It has dwindled due to habitat destruction, prey depletion, unregulated hunting, and trapping for the wildlife trade.



Lindley Briggs

Hidden Watchers

Water patterns and eyes are some of my very favorite things. Have sculpted them in many forms over the years. By combining stylized images of both, I hope to create a medal that evokes an aura of mystery. Hopefully the viewer will wonder – who are the HIDDEN WATCHERS watching and what does that imply?



Gods Among Mortals

The “gods” have wings on their heads, the mortals do not. What does that signify? Where are they? Why are they all lined up in a row? That is for the viewer to speculate..... It is my hope that the viewer of both these medals will look at familiar, iconic images in a new unexpected context. A quote that has long resonated with me is from Paul Klee who once said – “Art does not reveal what is seen but rather makes the unseen visible”. An artist or a camera can copy but my mission as an artist is to make the viewer look at reality in a new light.



George Cuhaj

Broken Promises are Timeless

Medium: Construction

Year: 2007

Description:

A statement about the broken promises of the United States Government against the Native American tribes by using a fragment of U.S. Currency and a fragment of a waupum belt held within a broken pocket watch frame.



Wooden Eye

Medium: Sand cast bronze

Year: 2013

Description:

Over the life of a tree they see many changes. This is a cast from a wood slab showing a branch knot from where it was cut, as if it was the "eye" of the tree.



Eugene Daub

Bukowski

Medium: Porcelain

Technique: Dress mold, fired ceramic

Year: 2021

Description:

Obverse: portrait

Reverse: Find what you love



Malevolent

Medium: Aluminum / cardboard

Technique: Aluminum / cardboard

Year: 2021

Description:

Obverse: portrait

Reverse: - one-sided



In 2020 E. Daub was recruited by the San Pedro Heritage Museum to come up with ideas for a monument to honor the poet Charles Bukowski . To raise funds Daub created a portrait medal of Bukowski celebrating the anniversary of the poets death in 2020. The medal comes in bronze or porcelain. There are two options for the reverse side.

‘FIND WHAT YOU LOVE AND LET IT KILL YOU’ or

“WHAT MATTERS MOST IS HOW WELL YOU WALK THROUGH THE FIRE “

Contact : Eugene Daub at eugenedaub@cox.net

Anne-Lise Deering

Pod of Orcas

Medium: Cold cast bronze

Technique:

Year: 2020

Description:

Obverse: Pod of orcas swimming in
the Pacific Northwest



Hungry crab

Medium: Cold cast bronze

Technique:

Year: 2009

Description:

Obverse: Red rock crab feeding on
a clam



Don Everhart

Rachel Carson

Medium: Bronze

Technique: Struck

Year: 2020

Description:

Obverse: Portrait of Rachel Carson & farm scene

Reverse: Bald eagle w/ fish in talons



Jamie Franki

Heath Literary Award

Medium: Patinated bronze

Technique: Struck

Year: 2013

Description:

Obverse: DE PROFUNDUS (Out from the depths)

Reverse: Heath Literary Award

The Heath Literary Award is the most important literary award conferred by the American Numismatic Association. Established in 1949, it recognizes outstanding articles published during the previous 12 months in the ANA's magazine *The Numismatist*. The Heath Literary Award was named for Dr. Roger F. Heath of nearby Monroe, MI – who in 1888 was the ANA founder and inaugural editor of *The Numismatist*. In 2013, I was commissioned by the ANA to design and sculpt this redesign of their Heath Literary Award for a ten-year edition sponsored by Q. David Bowers to be struck in 3" Bronze and Silver medals.



Prof. Amanullah Haiderzad

World Trade Center

Medium: Bronze

Technique: Struck

Year: 2001

Description:

Obverse: The World Trade Center

Reverse: Sept. 11, 2001, twin towers and
March 2001 twin Buddha in Afghanistan
destroyed by uncivilized terrorists



H.M. King Zaher Shah

Medium: mixed media

Year: 2018

Description:

Obverse: H.M. Zaher Shah, the last king of
Afghanistan



Carter Jones

Honoring

Medium: Hydrocal

Technique: Bas Relief

Year: 2018

Description:

Obverse: One sided medal

“I was one of the 20 medalists chosen in 2017 by the US Mint to design a commemorative coin to honor the soldiers who fought in WW1. When I read about how poorly our AfricanAmerican soldiers were treated During that campaign, I thought it was only fitting to honor them now . I had seen an old WW1 photo of an American soldier wearing one of those famous Dougboy’s flat helmets. I used that picture for my model.” -Jones



Tanya Karpiak

Beware: Spyware

Medium: Bronze

Technique:

Year: 2015

Description:

Obverse: Pair of eyes cover a map of U.S.A. Invasions of our privacy abound. The latest is spyware – malicious, covert intrusions into our computers to gather personal information. This medal is a reminder to beware of the reprehensible.



Keiko Kubota-Miura

SAVE our Planet I

Medium: Copper

Technique: Repoussé

Year: 2018

Description:

There is a lot of life hidden on our planet. If we don't save our planet, the life on our planet may disappear. Start with what you can do, no matter how small. Then, when the dust settles, it becomes a mountain. Reduce! Reuse! Recycle! Learn how reducing, reusing, and recycling can help you, your community, and the environment by saving money, energy, and natural resources. That is one of the ways to save our planet. And it will save the future of our descendants.



Keiko Kubota-Miura

SAVE our Planet II

Medium: Copper

Technique: Repoussé

Year: 2019

Description:

There is a lot of life hidden on our planet. If we don't save our planet, the life on our planet may disappear. It also affects other planets. If we don't save our planet now, the cosmic system may collapse. Start with what you can do, no matter how small. Reduce!

Reuse! Recycle! Learn how reducing, reusing, and recycling can help you, your community, and the environment by saving money, energy, and natural resources. That is to save our planet. And it will save the future universe.



Jim Licaretz

John Lewis Profile

Medium: Bonded bronze

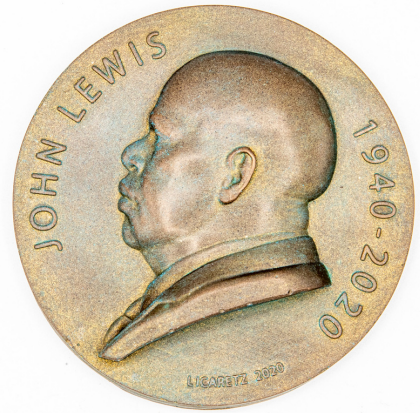
Technique: Cast

Year: 2021

Description:

Obverse: Profile portrait of John Lewis

Reverse: Uniface



John Lewis Front Portrait

Medium: Bonded bronze

Technique: Cast

Year: 2021

Description:

Obverse: Front portrait of John Lewis

Reverse: 'When you see something...'
quote



Jacqueline Lorieo

Positive/Negative

This bronze medal is a tribute to women living with breast cancer. Survivors deal with alteration to their bodies - the change in body image, and the change in self image. They must learn to accept the positives and the negatives. They are warrior women and symbols of strength and survival.



Remembering Yesterday

This bronze medal reflects on our memories of self as we age. We remember our youth, our unwrinkled skin, our energy, our goals to be attained. We also remember sadness, hopes displaced, goals not reached, but now have earned a perspective on a life lived.



Antonio Louvado

Global Warming

Medium: Steel, resin, brass

Technique: Fabricated

Year: 2009

Description:

Obverse: Displays a melting glacier and a polar bear stuck on a piece of the iceberg, and on the small pieces of ice can be seen the words “save the earth.” Screws representing that it can be fixed! It’s never too late.

This medal is meant to remind us of the climatic and urgent situation facing our planet. Displaying a melting glacier, a polar bear stuck on an iceberg, and the words, “Save the Earth,” it is a clear reminder that we should not take the world for granted!



James Malonebeach

Night Witches of Russia

Medium: Brass, bronze, and copper

Year: 2021

Description:

Obverse: Photo of women pilots in a brass gear

The so-called “Night Witches” (German nickname) of “Night Sparrows” (Russian name) were a group of young, Russian women who flew bi-planes to bomb German-invaded areas of the Russian Front during WWII. Flying only at night, they turned off their engines as they approached German encampments so they were virtually undetected by anti-aircraft guns. The pilots, armed only with pistols, were often able to outmaneuver the larger, faster German planes, yet they sustained many casualties as they contributed to the Russian defense. Their bi-planes held only a single bomb so they had to return to base, refuel, reload, and fly again to the front to take another pass at the enemy. In some cases, a single pilot might make as many as seven runs in one night. In spite of their heroic contributions to the protection of Russia, their efforts are largely unknown.



James Malonebeach

Who Picks the Prophet?

Medium: Bronze

Technique: Cast in mixed media

Year: 2012

Description:

Obverse: Quote from the Koran about peace and not to judge

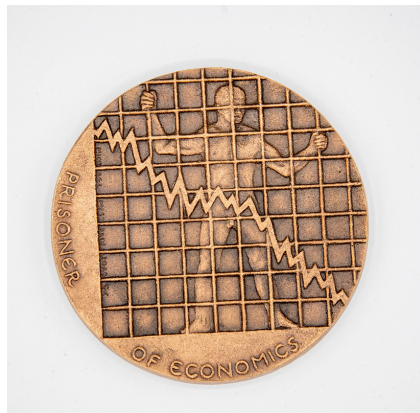
On the obverse of this medal is a quote from the Bible about acceptance and depicts three of four prophets: Jesus Christ, Buddha, and Joseph Smith. Muhammad is represented by his name since photographic images of him are sacrilegious. On the reverse is a quote from the Quran in Arabic that gives a similar statement about peace and acceptance.



Michael Meszaros

Prisoner of Economics

A man regards a falling graph with dismay. He is gripping the grid of the graph, which has become a prison. He is undressed, because financial stresses metaphorically strip people naked.



Indecision

A head looks in one direction. Within the head, a second head, a cut out void, looks in the opposite direction. The head cut out to make the void, looks in a third direction. Together, they suggest the tension between three alternative choices.



Judith Christine Mills

The Tree Planter

Medium: Cast resin / stained
with an acrylic paint wash.

Description:

Obverse: A woman plants a small tree

Reverse: The fully-grown tree, many years later.

The inspiration for this medal comes from the old adage - “They who plant trees, love others, too.” – demonstrating that people who labor or give of themselves (even though they may never reap any reward), are true lovers of their fellow man. Out of a desire to give selflessly, they are compelled to leave something behind for the future – for both animal and man to enjoy – in this case, the comfort, shade and protection of a tall and beautiful tree. There are many sources from around the world for this old saying - Roman statesman Cicero, 18th century English physician Thomas Fuller, 19th century French theologian Father Hyacinthe Loyson, and proverbs from the Greeks, Turks and Native Americans - making it not only a concept that dates back through time, but one that is a universal representation of altruism. In light of our urgent need to address climate change now and our concern for the protection and conservation of the earth’s wild spaces, it is an idea that one hopes will become a driving force in the world again.



Mashiko Nakashima

DR. GINKO OGINO

Medium: Cast bronze, wood with urushi

Year: 2017

Description:

3-part medal

Assembled obverse: Portrait; inscribed "Ginko Ogino/1851–1931"

Assembled reverse: Female reproductive system; inscribed "First Female Licensed Physician/Japan/1885"

Open medal: wood sphere with urushi, representing the minor planet named Ginkogino

Open obverse: inscribed "10526 GINKOGINO/APRIL 18 2011"

Open reverse: inscribed "MINOR PLANET/October 19, 1990 Okutama"

Ginko Ogino (1851–1913) was the first licensed and practicing female physician of western medicine in Japan. She contracted gonorrhoea from her first husband and divorced by him. She resolved to become a doctor and help women in similar circumstances after the embarrassment of being treated by male doctors. Despite much prejudice and hardship, she graduated with highest scores from a private all-male medical academy in 1882. Through numerous petitions were required, she was allowed to take the medical practitioner's examination in 1885. A minor planet 10526 (discovered by 2 Japanese amateur astrologists in 1990) was named Ginkogino in 2011.



Jeanne Stevens-Sollman

Bee Safe or Bee Gone

During the spring of 2020 lockdown, the gardens provided solace. The bees were beginning to emerge, pollinating the early snow crocus. Then came news of the giant killer bees in Washington State. The obverse of this med is the image of the killer, large and menacing. The reverse has two smaller honey bees, victims of this enormous giant bee. "Be Safe or Bee Gone" is a little warning to us all during these difficult times.



Korean Peace Talks

This medal depicts a profile of 45 surrounded by a halo of bombs which is reminiscent of the tableaux of Russian Saints. The center bomb is poised to drop directly on 45 and all his mischief. The reverse is a comment on the environmental destruction occurring during his tenure.



Susan Taylor

Hope/Our Carbon Footprint

Medium: Gold plated with brown wax patina

Technique: Cast

Year: 2021

Description:

Obverse: The obverse is titled HOPE featuring Mother Earth adorned with cedar foliage with the Latin word SPES, meaning “hope”, woven into the branches. The cedar represents our forests working to absorb CO₂ emissions, the bird in flight air we breathe, and the caribou the land we walk upon. HOPE that we have the courage to make the right decisions to reduce our carbon footprint and preserve the natural environment for ourselves and for others.

Reverse: The reverse is titled OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT and is the mirrored image of Mother Earth, stripped bare of any natural elements, overwhelmed by a shroud of chemical formulas destroying her environment. The dragon represents the classic tale of St. George and the Dragon. St. George is outside the viewing plane because he represents us all and we all bear the responsibility to reduce our carbon footprint and give Mother Earth hope for the future.



Susan Taylor

Remembrance

Medium: Bronze

Technique: Cast with patina

Year: 2016

Description:

“REMEMBRANCE” honours the heroic efforts of my grandfather, George Edie and his fellow comrades who fought in the 2nd Battle of Ypres during the “Great War for Civilization”. On the obverse the portrait of the young soldier framed by the barbed wire represents youth sacrificed through the loss of life, imprisonment, and emotional trauma. On the reverse the poppies emerging from the barbed wire symbolize the loss of life through spent flowers, the flowers in bloom symbolize the survivors and the young buds symbolize the future, “Lest We Forget”.



Heidi Wastweet Studio Inc.

New York City Library Lion

Medium: Bronze

Technique: Cast

Year: 2018

Description:

Obverse: At 5th Avenue and 42nd st two marble lions, Fortitude and Patience, lay watch outside the famed library. This medal is based on a photograph taken by the artist from her very first glimpse of the library through spring blossoms as she approached from the street. In the following years, after several visits to the library, this very first view was never forgotten, etched in her brain. The lions, by sculptor Edward Clark Potter have capture hearts and imaginations since 1911.



Heidi Wastweet Studio Inc.

Osiris

Medium: Silver

Technique: Struck

Year: 2021

Description:

Obverse: Osiris. Egyptian god of the afterlife is depicted as a zombie-like being with crook and flail, wearing the Atif crown which is the crown of Upper Egypt combined with two Ostrich feathers. His name is written in a cartouche.

Reverse: Mummy. A fully wrapped mummy stands in front of a pyramid, flanked by canopic jars. In Egyptian burial customs the jars held the major organs, the stomach (Jackal jar), intestines (Falcon jar), lungs (Baboon jar), and liver (Human headed jar, all of which, it was believed, would be needed in the afterlife. There was no jar for the heart: the Egyptians believed it to be the seat of the soul, and so it was left inside the body. The brain was discarded.



Douglas White

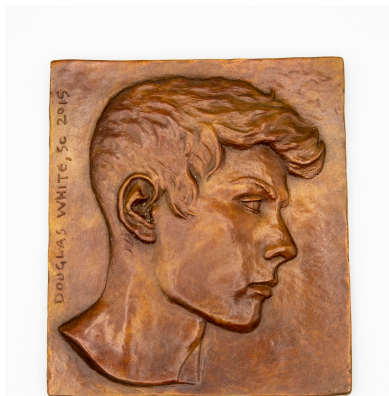
William Bolcom - American Musician

This is a portrait of William Bolcom, Grammy award-winning composer, pianist, and recipient of the National Medal of Arts and the Pulitzer Prize. He was professor of composition at the University of Michigan, and one of the primary people in the rebirth of interest in ragtime music. With his wife, mezzo-soprano Joan Morris, he's made many recordings of American popular songs, from Civil War times to the present. The proportions of the rectangular shape of the medal reflect the typical dimensions of sheet music. It is subtitled "American Musician" according to the wishes of Bolcom because, like the French composer Claude Debussy, he is not only a composer but a composer and a performer, and Debussy used to sign his letters "Cluade Debussy, musicien français."



Two Sides of the Same Soul

This medal is about a young man who is also a drag artist. The obverse shows him as a male-identified young man, with a ferric patina, while the reverse shows the same young man in drag, with a silver nitrate patina. The medal treats the illusion of facial changes, brought about through makeup, as actual physical, bodily reality. Also, with a silver nitrate patina, the reverse conjures the light of the moon and a glittery nighttime venue.



Eva-Maria Wohn

New York City

Medium: Hydrostone

Technique: Cast

Year: 2021

Description:

Obverse: NY skyline w/ watertower

The New York City medal was designed with my NY brother in mind. Whenever I visit, we walk for hours, and our goal is to eventually cross every bridge and view as many water towers as possible. Each water tower has its own style, materials, height, and form. In this piece I exaggerated the water tower, based on one in Brooklyn, and minimized the skyline and bridge. I started with an architecturally accurate skyline, but clay and the eye both like to wander and after I cast it, I realized I had taken some liberties with the skyline both in placement of the buildings and their design. It is cast in hydrostone. I like the cold heaviness of it.



Eva-Maria Wohn

Refranta

Medium: Resin

Technique: Cast

Year: 2021

Description:

Refrenata is the Latin word for repression. I tried to sculpt that emotion as well as 'repress' the work into a near flat form so only the shallow depressions indicated form. My first cast was in plaster and even with a patina, it didn't convey the loneliness or the feeling of being an outsider that I was looking for. After I cast it in resin, I realized it looked better on the reverse, a completely flat shape, with all the form seemingly trapped inside; truly repressed. The obverse, with its dusty look still captures the emotion, but in a very different way.



Karen Worth

Millennium 2000

Medium: Bronze

Technique: Struck

Year: 2000

Description:

Obverse: Woman soaring into space

Reverse: Figures in capsules floating in space



Lorraine Wright

Life Cycles

Medium: Bronze

Technique: Lost wax

Year: 2021

Description:

Reverse: One sided medal

“Life Cycles” depicts an individuals’ journey through life at a point in time. As we go through the various stages of life from childhood, adolescence, to adult and senior; from education to careers to retirement, relationships and family. We are all unique and no one journey is the same. Different cycles may take place at the same time or cross paths but we continue to move forward.

Developed using the lost wax casting.



Mark Benvenuto

INRI

Medium: Leaded tin metal

Technique: Poured in graphite

Year: 2021

Description:

Obverse: The Letters INRI in quarters, separated by a cross.

This medal is a simple example inspired by the words on the cross of Christ.

