

Variety Series

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“A skilled crafts person can be described as someone who has mastered the coordination of the motions of his or her hands with the efficient operation of tools. In the practice of the arts, however, we recognize that it is not dexterous manipulative skills alone that produce masterpieces that move our spirit; only by the joint alchemy of mind, imagination, and skill do materials become transmitted into significant works.”

—Oppi Untracht

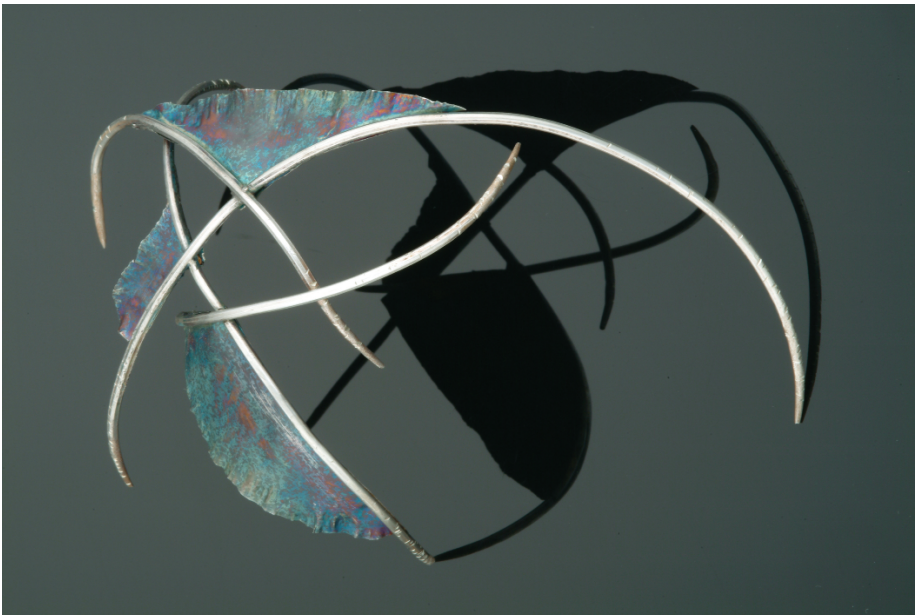
The hand and the mind can work in tandem, but they can be challenged independently of one another. I see the hand being the structure and the mind being variety. Those two words describe my work: structure and variety. The excitement that wells up in me is spurred by them options and possibilities of the mind and hand. I have worked into a semi intuitive method of constructing metal pieces, whether they are sculptures for the body or not. A strong understanding of materials and foundational skills is a must in order to move to another level of working that challenges the brain, then the hand. This is creating a mental space conducive to letting things intuitively happen, yet still maintaining an outlined foundation to function on.

My work is dominated by structure and variety. The structure is constructed metal forms from sterling silver or steel. The variety is other materials utilized that meaningfully enter my life. The structure is sturdy and strong while the material that is suspended within the structure is delicate, organic, and of a different nature than the metal.

I use the structural component as principle in my work. Here it speaks of physical strength and support; it is durable and wearable. The physical nature also links to larger themes dealing with a different type of reality than physical concepts of organization like reason and society.

The creation of jewelry is as old as human beings themselves. I am inspired by the legacy of the highly creative individuals that have come before, and that are thriving all around us today. I see my placement in

the History of Art and Metalsmithing as similar to the concept that my work is based on: structure and variety. It is grounding and inspiring at the same time.



Valerie Kasinkas (2005)
Variety Serices Brooch



Valerie Kasinkas (2005)
Variety Series Brooch



Valerie Kasinskas (2005)
Variety Serices Bracelet



Valerie Kasinkas (2005)
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