

PENLAND GALLERY

KAT COLE

Columbus, GA

METALS | Steel and enamel jewelry

Penland Affiliation | Penland Instructor 2014, 2023

Artist Information | Studio artist; education: MFA East Carolina University (NC), BFA Virginia Commonwealth University (VA); teaching: Home Studio Workshops (GA), Richmond Art Center (VA), Metalswrex (MA), Penland (NC), Pocosin Arts (NC); exhibitions: WEAR | Contemporary Jewelry, Penland Gallery (NC), Facere Art Jewelry (CA), Velvet DaVinci (CA), Taboo Studio (CA), Schmuck (Munich, Germany), Carnegie Arts Center (KY)

Artist Bio | Kat Cole lives and works from her home studio in Columbus, GA. Cole received her MFA at East Carolina University and BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is co-founder of the online and pop-up project Jewelry Edition, was on the board of directors for the Society for North American Goldsmiths (SNAG) 2015-2021, and served as Interim Managing Director and coordinator for SNAG's first virtual conference in 2021.

Kat Cole's work is internationally recognized and exhibited, and has been published in Lark Books' 500 Enameled Objects, Schiffer Publishing's Art Jewelry Today 3, Metalsmith Magazine, Ornament, American Craft, and Art Jewelry Magazine. Her work is in private and public collections including the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City, Racine Art Museum, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, the Enamel Foundation, and the Houston Museum of Fine Art.

Artist Statement | *I find meaning through the observance and intimate awareness of the places I inhabit. With each geographic change, I have become more attuned to the natural and man-made attributes that make a location unique. I look to the built environment of the city where I live for the formal qualities of my work: materials, forms, color and surface quality. The steel and concrete structures that surround us are evidence of human inhabitants- past and present. Monumental structures are interpreted into the intimate scale of jewelry and are completed when worn on the landscape of the body. My work is made from porcelain enamel and steel, both predominantly used on an industrial scale. These materials are used to make small, one-of-a-kind objects- allowing for unusual and lightweight forms in jewelry and makes the translation into sculpture more achievable. The use of vitreous porcelain enamel fired onto the surface of hollow fabricated steel creates unique surfaces, color and depth.*

Penland School of Craft | Penland Gallery & Visitors Center
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