

# PENLAND GALLERY

SARAH HOLDEN

Chicago, IL

**METALS** | Jewelry

**Penland Affiliation** | Penland Instructor 2014

**Artist Information** | Studio artist; education: MFA University of Wisconsin (WI), BFA Virginia Commonwealth University (VA); teaching: Lillstreet Art Center (IL), Chicago Industrial Arts & Design Center (IL), Penland School of Craft (NC), Evanston Art Center, (IL), University of Wisconsin (WI); exhibitions: Fuller Craft Museum (MA), Penland Gallery (NC), Baltimore Jewelry Center (MD), Heidi Lowe Gallery (DE), New York Jewelry Week (NY)

**Artist Statement** | *My work investigates how female identity is constructed and performed through the body. The female body as site and content for my work yields series in sculpture, drawing and limited-production jewelry. As content, I source and celebrate imagery and histories of women that rebel against cultural expectations of how women are supposed to act. Working inside this contested space I use traditional and non-traditional craft techniques to challenge these expectations by creating a role reversal through material. All of my sculpture and jewelry are created using some combination of steel and fiber. I set this guideline for myself as a challenge: if steel represents the masculine and fiber represents the feminine, how can I reverse their expected gender associations and challenge the status quo? As site, the immediacy of presenting the work on or referencing the body in the format of jewelry allows me to provide a direct connection to the politicized body that the work explores.*

**Artist Biography** | Sarah Holden received her MFA in Studio Art with a focus in Jewelry and Metalsmithing from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and her BFA in Crafts/Material Studies and Sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University. Sarah has presented as a visiting artist at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, The University of Wisconsin Whitewater, and taught at Penland School of Craft. Sarah currently teaches steel fabrication and metal forming at the Chicago Industrial Arts and Design Center. Sarah's sculpture and limited production jewelry can be found at galleries across the US. Sarah currently lives in Chicago where she works as a studio artist, metals instructor, and mom.

Penland School of Craft | Penland Gallery & Visitors Center  
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