

PENLAND GALLERY

CAITIE SELLERS

Richmond, VA

METALS | Jewelry

Penland Affiliation | Penland Studio Assistant, Penland Winter Resident 2016

Artist Information | Studio artist; education: BFA Craft/Material Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University (VA), James Madison University (VA); residencies: Shared Concerns, Penland Winter Residency, 2nd Annual Pentaculum, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts (TN), Clamp Light Artist Studios (TX), Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (TX); exhibitions: American Craft Council Baltimore, Metals Museum (TN), Quirk Gallery (VA), 108 Contemporary (OK), Mora Jewelry Gallery (NC)

Artist Bio | Caitie Sellers has spent years moving between Virginia, Guatemala, Montana, North Carolina, and Texas learning technique and gathering inspiration for her artwork based on the urban landscape. Her work ranges from one of a kind small sculpture to limited production wearable jewelry and is exhibited internationally. She maintains her studio in The Elevator Collective, a multidisciplinary artist studio she founded in 2015 in Richmond, VA.

Artist Statement | *I use traditional silversmithing techniques to create work that revolves around a unique combination of alloys and industrial materials. I fuse fine copper mesh from an industrial manufacturer with sterling silver as the base for most of my pieces, using techniques I developed during a residency at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft. Using these materials creates an effect that provides solid planes with transparency, allowing me to play with dimension and layers.*

I am fascinated with the hidden workings of cities -- beautiful, efficient design that is hidden beneath pavement and brick. Using transparent mesh allows me to show both the outer skin and the guts of a place. These pieces show the basic building blocks of a city, something assembled by ancient and forgotten hands, juxtaposed with modern additions and renovations. I'm interested in showing the cycles of urban growth and decay.

I use many other techniques to recreate infrastructure in miniature. I weave thin gauge sterling silver wire to create chain link fence. I use filigree techniques to make tiny guard rails and brick walls. I use granulation techniques to build silt and gravel. I coil and fuse fine wire to create powerlines and cable. I combine these simple overlooked structures with 18 karat gold to symbolize their real value in our lives.

Technical Information | Sterling silver and copper mesh jewelry

Penland School of Craft | Penland Gallery & Visitors Center
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