

Petra Class

On jewelry making.

Trained as a silversmith in Germany and having spent several years constructing tableware, my approach to jewelry making is informed foremost by the European tradition of applied art. I limit myself to creating jewelry that is wearable and also, to a big degree, to the materials traditionally perceived as precious. Within these limitations I am trying to develop my own language, hoping to be able to not only communicate my own sensibilities but also a sense of contemporary aesthetic.

Over the years, I find certain themes reoccurring in my work, the rhythmical arrangements of several elements, repetition of similar forms or colors, the unexpected contrasts of differently textured materials...

I am endlessly fascinated with gemstones, precious or not....by the wealth of different reds found in nature, by the sea of blues: the opaqueness of lapis, the transparency and subtlety of a lightly lilac-colored sapphire. One can almost paint with these stones.

Within the self-imposed limitation of, for instance, making a gold brooch I feel I can, through my choice of colors and textures, communicate a certain mood, an attitude towards life that in turn will be, I hope, sensed by whoever is looking at the piece...like a improvisational jazz melody, like an abstract landscape...

petra class

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Goldsmith
Born November 28, 1958 in Stuttgart, Germany

EDUCATION AND WORK:

Own studio in San Francisco, 1991 to present
Own studio in Berlin, 1985 to 1991
Design and construction of tableware at the workshop of Axel Gobbesso, Berlin, 1982 to 1985
Fachschule fuer Glas und Schmuck, Neugablonz, 1979 to 1982
Art History and Philosophy, University of Stuttgart, Germany, 1977 to 1979
Abitur, Johannes-Kepler-Gymnasium, Stuttgart, Germany, 1977

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2018 *STARDUST-TRANSMOGRIFIED*, Jewelerswerk Gallerie, Washington D.C.
 Sam Shaw Jewelry, Northern Harbor, ME
 Von Bargins, VT & NH

2017 Sam Shaw Jewelry, Northern Harbor, ME
 Von Bargins, VT & NH
 Bennett Gallery, Knoxville, TN

2016 Patina Gallery, Santa Fe, NM

2014 Sam Shaw Jewelry, Northern Harbor, ME

2006 Telluride Gallery of Art, Telluride, CO

2005 The Signature Gallery, Atlanta, GA

2004 Mobilia Gallery, Cambridge, MA
 Positive Images, Austin, TX

2003 Materia Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

2000 Sam Shaw Gallery, Northern Harbor, ME
 Susan Cummins Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

1999 Sybaris Gallery, Royal Oak, MI
 Susan Cummins Gallery, Mill Valley, CA
 Martina Windels Gallery, Providence, RI

1997 Susan Cummins Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

1996 Joanne Rapp Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
 Sculpture to Wear, Los Angeles, CA

1995 Susan Cummins Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2018 *PEARLS REDEFINED*, Aaron Faber Gallery, New York, NY
RE:FINE, The Store at MAD, New York, NY
Une occasion spéciale: Celebratory Adornment, Mobilia Gallery, Cambridge, MA
- 2017 Freehand Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
THE POWER OF PEARLS, Taboo Studio, San Diego, CA
- 2016 *Shadow Themes*, Reinstein and Ross, New York, NY
- 2015 *So Fine*, Facèré, Seattle, WA
- 2014 *Out of the Blue*, Taboo Studio, San Diego
- 2008 *Together-Apart*, Aaron Faber Gallery, New York
- 2007 *Process Documented*, Aaron Faber Gallery, New York, NY
New West Coast Design, Velvet Da Vinci, San Francisco, CA
Jewelry by Artists: The Daphne Farago Collection, Boston Museum of Art
- 2006 Pacini Lubel Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2005 *Black Diamonds*, Sam Shaw Gallery, Maine
- 2004 *The Art of Gold*, Mint Museum, Richmond, Virginia
- 2003 *The Art of Gold*, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
- 2002 Patina Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
Metalsmiths from the American West, Montana State University, MT
- 2000 Martina Windels Gallery, Providence, RI
- 1999 Gallery Treykorn, Berlin, Germany
Sam Shaw Gallery, Northern Harbor, ME
- 1998 Objects of Desire Gallery, Louisville, KY
- 1997 Nancy Sachs Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 1996 Connell Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 1995 Susan Cummins Gallery, Mill Valley, CA
- 1994 *Gems and Jewels*, Oakland Art Museum, Oakland, CA
- 1993 Inhorgenta, Munich, Germany
- 1990 Ambiente, Frankfurt, Germany
- 1989 Gallery Voigt, Nuremberg, Germany
- 1988 Unikat Schmuck, Frankfurt, Germany
Hilde Leiss, Hamburg, Germany

AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS:

- Excellence in Jewelry, Smithsonian Craft Show, 2013
The Freedom of Limits, Metalsmith Magazine, 2013
Off the Beaten Path, MJSA Journal, 2011
New Rings: 500+ Designs from Around the World, Nicolas Estrada, 2010
500 Earrings, Lark Books, New York, 2007
Kings of Bling, Lapidary Journal, May 2007
500 Brooches, Lark Books, New York, 2005
Trading on Talent, The Sacramento Bee, January 5, 2003
Ernie Kim Award, Richmond Art Center, 2001
Best of Show, American Craft Council Show San Francisco, 2000
Award of Excellence, American Craft Council Show Baltimore, 2000
Structured Chaos, Ornament Magazine, 1999
Best First Time Exhibitor Award, American Craft Expo, 1999
Of Rings and Things, S.F. Bay Guardian, August 6, 1997