

2023

About the Cover

Follow this and additional works at: https://vc.bridgew.edu/undergrad_rev

Recommended Citation

(2023). About the Cover. *Undergraduate Review*, 17, p. 3-4.

Available at: https://vc.bridgew.edu/undergrad_rev/vol17/iss1/3

This item is available as part of Virtual Commons, the open-access institutional repository of Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

Copyright © 2023

About The Cover

Beyond Simple: Exploring Intricate Jewelry Techniques

Merna Elnesr

Mentor: Prof. Preston Saunders (Art and Art History)

Cover images (left to right): Filigree earrings, made from brass wires and finished with a lustrous gold plating, featuring flowing swirl lines and assorted beads to accentuate their beauty.

Elegant Filigree Set, crafted from sterling silver, featuring intricate lace-like floral patterns that exemplify fine artistry.

Luxurious Rope Chain, formed from sterling silver and finished with a coat of gold plating, featuring a series of intertwined metal segments that mimic the spiral appearance of a rope.

Delicate Ring, created from sterling silver and finished with a coat of gold plating, featuring a central gemstone that's framed by unique geometric details.

Artist Statement

Seemingly simple yet intricate jewelry pieces were what sparked my research passion. However, my love for delicate and detailed jewelry collided with the realization that crafting such elegance posed challenges. Undeterred, I embarked on the journey to explore and answer how simple and complex can be merged into one entity.

This project aimed to explore and create intricate jewelry using diverse techniques. My journey began with wax casting, where I refined my wax carving skills by meticulously crafting fine, detailed rings. Upon completing the casting process, I started learning more about filigree, what it was, and its techniques. Simultaneously, I forged jump rings and chains to attach them to my filigree and casting creations.

Expanding further, I ventured into designing various chain types, bringing beautiful bracelets and necklaces to life. Toward the conclusion of my summer-long Adrian Tinsley Program (ATP) project, I ended up creating thirteen rings, two pendants, five pairs of earrings, three bracelets, and a complete jewelry set. These outcomes stimulated me to bring life into more creations as my journey advances.

Throughout this journey, I faced notable challenges, particularly in mastering filigree and fine-chain building

techniques. However, these challenges inspired me to craft jewelry pieces that are a reflection of my hard work. This experience has not only unlocked new skills in precision and patience but also advanced my existing ones in creativity and handcraftsmanship.



MERNA ELNESR

Studio Art, Metalsmithing/Jewelry Making & Painting Concentration

Merna Elnesr is a senior at BSU, graduating in May 2024. She is majoring in Studio Art with concentrations in Metalsmithing/Jewelry Making and Painting, and she is minoring in Asian Studies. In Summer 2023, Merna was awarded an Adrian Tinsley Program (ATP) grant to design and create several pieces of jewelry, with the mentorship of Prof. Preston Saunders (Art and Art History). Her artwork, characterized by intricate details and delicacy, draws inspiration from nature, reflecting her deep connection to the environment. Merna's creative works extend beyond visual arts to include writing poems and stories as a form of self-expression. Her work was featured in BSU's 2023 Student Art Exhibition. She plans to present her work at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in 2024. She aspires to become a skilled jeweler, crafting pieces with distinct and captivating stories.