

Metal Clay Jewelry with Lisel Crowley

This 7 week course is designed to fully immerse individuals in the potential of Metal Clay as an artistic medium. Beginning with the basics, each week we will explore new techniques and increasingly complex design possibilities. Suitable for beginning to intermediate students, this program will help you gain technical expertise and artistic freedom in this exciting medium.

Week 1 – Introduction to Metal Clay, what it is, where it comes from, types of metal clay, best practices and tools for working with metal clay, firing considerations.

First project, basic textured and layered pendant and earrings in fine silver.

Week 2 – Finishing considerations. Best tools and practices for finishing firing pieces. Testing for proper sintering, water and bend tests.

Also Organic forms and metal clay – creating molds from natural objects. Using leaves in a variety of ways for your designs. Creating natural vine elements for bails and embellishments.

Project – Creating items of choice using leaves, molds and vines. Finishing pieces from week one.

Week 3 – Creating your own textures – Moving beyond commercially available textures to making your own designs for metal clay. Scratch foam and photopolymer plates as well as carving.

Project – creating designs in scratch foam, photopolymer plates and block carving and then creating metal clay pieces with them.

Week 4 – Stone setting in Metal Clay – how to set fireable stones in metal clay. Creating bezels for stones of a variety of shapes and sizes. How to incorporate those stones into metal clay designs.

Project – Item of choice using a fire in place stone. Also finishing pieces from week 3.

Week 5 – Dimension in metal clay – How to add depth and dimension to your designs using molds, cork clay, etc. Reversible lentil beads, pod shapes, beads of varied shapes will be discussed and demonstrated.

Project – hollow forms of choice. Also finishing pieces from week 4.

Week 6 – Metal clay rings – Sizing to allow for shrinkage, working on a mandrel, a variety of ring styles will be discussed and demonstrated.

Project – Ring. Also finishing items from week 5.

Week 7 – Overview of course, group critiques of student work, last day of class party, final finishing of pieces made during class.

