HOUSTON METAL ARTS A GUILD

SPRING 2014

HMAG.org

GOLD PAGES NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: JEFF MCGEE



Participants at the Kuem Boo and Hydraulic Press Die Forming Workshop pose with our visiting artist Sue Amendolara (center). Sue flew in from snowy western
Pennsylvania to hang out with HMAG for the weekend. She gave an artist lecture at Glassell on Friday and lead a very active workshop on Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to all who helped out and participated in the weekend!

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Letter From the President

By Jeff McGee

Hello HMAGers!

As we turn the corner on the calendar year and head into the Spring season, HMAG is heating up along with the Houston weather. Your Board of Directors has a full slate of programs, workshops, community events, and exhibitions coming up in the next few months. Information about upcoming programming can be found throughout this newsletter, as well as on our organization's newly updated website. The website upgrade comes courtesy of longtime member and webmaster Terri Golas with support from Communications Director Alita Buck. Our new site is easier to navigate and has many upgraded features that are laid out in detail by Alita on Page 6 of this newsletter.

Also in these pages, our resident note-taker Priscilla Frake has added another great and informative volume of *Tips and Tricks* on Page 10. While on Page 12, our Education Director <u>Corey Ackelmire</u> spells out the specifics of our newly expanded <u>Educational Scholarship</u> opportunities. This year's \$500 award will be open to all Texas and Louisiana residents for enrollment in a Fall 2014 Jewelry and Metalsmithing course.

The deadline for entry in our annual Member Show at 18 Hands Gallery, *Show Your Metal II*, is coming quick. The deadline has been extended to March 14th and a condensed prospectus is located on Page 14. You can find complete information and the online entry form located in the "Shows" link from the HMAG homepage. Submit up to four pieces for jurying; this year handled by our very own Val Link, applications cost \$25 for members. Thanks go out to Special Projects Directors Mary Davenport and Mary Jarvis for putting together the logistics. Hope to see you at the reception!

Programs Director Cathy Prieto Smith has been putting together some great events including the Educator's Panel, Nisa Blackmon Lecture, and a Holiday themed Hands on Houston at HCCC. In upcoming events, the proprietors of TXRX are booked for a March 21st program. There will be a 6:30pm wine and snack social hour prior to the talk which will begin at 7:00pm. HMAG is very excited about this burgeoning relationship with TXRX. Previously, members had visited the TXRX facility (right) during one of their Friday Open House events. The Board is always on the lookout for connections and



HMAG Members enjoy a tour of the TXRX labs in the East End District. Visit TXRX online at txrxlabs.org.

ideas for programs. If you have an idea or concept and would like to share or present, please contact Cathy at <u>HMAGProg@gmail.com</u>. We'd love to hear from you!

On April 26th, HMAG will be participating in <u>The Houston Center for Contemporary Craft</u> Gathering of the Guilds. This year we will be working outdoors forging copper and brass wire to create fibula brooches with the public. If you are interested in helping out by donating your time, tools, or materials please contact me via the President email at <u>HMAGPres@gmail.com</u>. I will have a small anvil, some bench blocks, a torch, and a number of hammers, but the more people and equipment we have on hand, the smoother the day will go. If you can or cannot make it, please tell your friends and family to stop by. The Craft Center is in Zone 2 of the <u>Houston Museum Experience</u>.



Fun with resin casting during the Moldmaking workshop at Glassell.

Workshop Coordinator Terry Fromm has put together a great year so far, with the second offering of *Pewter* Basics with HMAG Vice President Chuck Schwarz, Moldmaking with Leslie Shershow, Die Forming and Kuem Boo with Sue Amendolara, and the upcoming Sculptural Forms in Sheet Metal taught by yours truly. The forming workshop is limited to 12 spaces and costs \$175. More information can be found on Page 15 and online registration can be accessed from the "Workshops" link on the homepage. I am very much looking forward to teaching my first HMAG workshop and could not be more proud of the technical contributions we offer to members. Like Programs, we are always looking for ideas for future workshops. Know of someone we could bring in from outside the organi-

zation? Corral from within (it's Rodeo time after all)? Or perhaps there is a technique you have always wanted to learn, but have never had the chance to experience. Look no further than your friendly neighborhood Metals Guild and drop us a line. We are here to serve you!

HMAG is always looking to expand the scope of what we offer our members and the community while still holding true to our mission of providing education and promoting public awareness and interest in the metal arts. You can be a part of that expansion. Board Elections are coming very shortly with the advent of the new Membership Year on June 1st. Board positions are listed on Page 17, and Membership information is listed on Page 19. Have a business and looking to advertise? Become a Corporate Member, the benefits more than outweigh the extra cost! Plus you have an active, informed, and directed demographic at your doorstep! Contact Nathan Dube in Membership for further information.

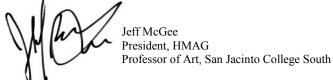
The HMAG Library is always available to members. You can find a full list of books through the secure "Members Only" tab on the website. Librarian <u>Sissy O'Malley</u> would be more than happy to loan you a book. If you ask her nicely, she will even tell you about the not-so-secret, but underutilized <u>MFAH Hirsch Library</u> which she visited recently. They have numerous volumes on the Metal Arts which you can view on site.



HMAG President Jeff McGee and former HCCC Artist in Residence Robert Thomas Mullen pose with their mentor from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania Sue Amendolara during her February visit to Houston.

Financially, HMAG is in good shape, Treasurer <u>Jo Preston</u>, along with being a gracious Holiday Party host, is ever vigilant with our books, and continues to be a rock for the Board to lean on. Thanks for opening up your home to us Jo, and thanks for all you do. In case you were not aware, members are always welcome to attend a Board of Directors Meeting. Secretary <u>Chris Magisano</u> has been keeping the minutes updated, and we post them in the "Members Only" section of the website. If you have any questions or would like to attend our next meeting please email any Board Member, and we would be happy to invite you along!

Finally, a personal thanks to all who contributed and participated in the Sue Amendolara visit. I was extremely excited to have my friend and mentor visit our Guild (and Texas) for the first time. She felt very welcomed and was impressed by the level of talent and energy we have in our organization. Being relatively new to Texas myself, I could not agree more. Thank you all for your hospitality and continuing interest in HMAG and the greater metal arts community!





<u>Jeff McGee</u> is a Professor of Art at <u>San Jacinto College</u> South Campus where he heads the Metals and Sculpture area. He received his MFA from the <u>University of Kansas</u> in 2009. His award winning metal work has been exhibited nationally and internationally.





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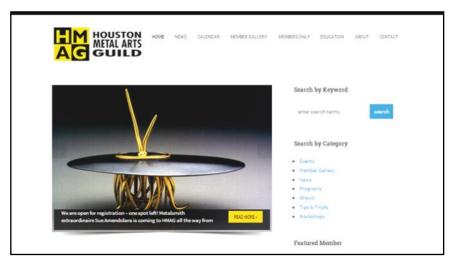
The ads you see in this newsletter come to you courtesy of our Corporate Members. A Corporate Membership comes with many benefits including a free 1/2 page ad in our Bi-annual newsletter. For more information about membership benefits contact our Membership Director Nathan Dube at <a href="https://example.com/hman.co

HMAG's Brand New Website Grand Tour

By Alita Buck

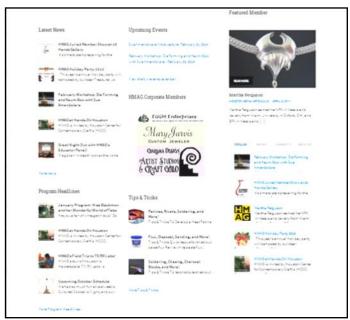
Welcome one and all to HMAG's new home on the web designed and constructed by the extraordinary Terri Golas with design consultation by your amicable Communications Director, Alita Buck.

Our beautifully designed homepage greets viewers with a bold scrolling banner that announces our most recent and upcoming events. The main navigation (News, Calendar, Member Gallery, Members Only, Education, About and Contact) links visitors to the main information centers of the site.



- The News tab lets viewers see every news post in order starting from the most recent, making it easy to find a news item or article one may have found a month ago but is now no longer on the homepage.
- The Calendar is constantly updated with upcoming events, and HMAG members are encouraged to submit any events they may have coming up, such as exhibitions or workshops, which they would like to notify the HMAG membership about! Clicking on any event on the calendar will take visitors to a page detailing the event's information, including a map to the area and occasionally a convenient RSVP form depending on the event.
- Our gorgeous HMAG Member Gallery features a dynamic visual layout, and all
 members are strongly encouraged to submit images of their work and a bit about
 themselves! The submission form is located in the Members Only tab, and all images must be 600 X 400 pixels at 72 dpi. This will ensure the images function
 in all areas of the site.

- The Members Only tab has gone through radical improvements, but we need your help to make this an energetic and useful area of the site! Familiar information, like our member directory, library catalogue, board meeting minutes, newsletter archives, and the member gallery submission form are present. But we have developed a new feature, the HMAG Member Forum! This tool has the potential to connect us in valuable new ways.
 - For example, perhaps you need to get your hands on the Micro-Pro Champion Master Carver, but you have no idea who might have one you could ask to use. Now, you can just go to the member forum and ask the membership! Just make a new post with your question, in this case "Hey y'all who might have a Micro-Pro Champion Master Carver I could use? I'd be much obliged thanks!" And as other members check the forum they will respond to your request! However, this system only works if people actually make use of it. As the forum gains momentum, I will make a section on the homepage featuring the newest forum posts and the most active forum posts. In this way, we can share tools, advice, resources, and encouragement. So, put yourself out there, and don't be shy!
- The **Education** tab links visitors to information about HMAG's annual student scholarship and our educational outreach!
- The About and Contact tabs introduce HMAG's history, current board, and affiliates, and provide contact through email. Members are strongly encouraged to use this contact form to give us feedback! Is there something else you would like to see on the site? Something doesn't work? Something is confusing? Don't hesitate to let us know, and we will get back to you ASAP!



The rest of the homepage is divided into concise yet spacious sections that allow immediate access to the latest news, program headlines, and upcoming listings on the HMAG calendar at a single glance. A permanent side-navigation on the right allows visitors to jump between areas of the site with one-click ease. The side bar also features **HMAG's Member of the Month**, and links visitors to their member gallery page! And finally, a convenient menu allows visitors to see the site's most visited posts, most recent posts, recent comments, or archived posts. This menu makes browsing accessible from any point on the site.

Along with recent news, we are proud to feature our sponsors right on the front page! New visitors are encouraged to explore our Tips and Tricks section to get a glimpse into the vast wealth of knowledge our HMAG community possesses and shares among its members. And speaking of membership, a permanent footer allows visitors access to the "JOIN" and "RENEW" buttons from any area of the site, as well as information about HMAG, connecting on social media, subscribing to our eNews, and donating to HMAG!



We are so thrilled to be able to provide our members with a beautiful, detailed, and lovingly managed center of operations. Any and all information regarding programs, workshops, get-togethers, and community activities, all can be found here! In addition to being an information resource, we hope to grow our website into a true hub of community and collaborative friendship and support between all our members. Thanks for being so great, HMAG!

Your Communications Director, Alita Buck



Alita Buck received her BA in Studio Art and Art History from <u>Trinity University</u> in San Antonio, TX. Now living and working in Houston as an artist, she works predominantly with metal and natural materials. She draws inspiration from art history, myth, and daily life."

2013/14 HMAG Workshop Highlights



Leslie Shershow leads the *Moldmaking* workshop at Glassell. Participants experimented with rubber molds and casting in resin as an alternative material.



Participants in the second *Pewter Basics* workshop with HMAG Vice President Chuck Schwarz show off their fabricated vessels at San Jacinto College South.



Visiting Artist Sue Amendolara explains the Korean gold foil process of Kuem Boo to workshop attendees at San Jacinto College South.

Tips and Tricks

By Priscilla Frake

Keeping things clean: Keep leftover bits of sandpaper in your soldering kit and use them to clean your solder and soldering picks. You can also use green scrubby pads to clean metal or solder.

From: Jo Preston

Storing your Solder: I store my solder supply in sealed bags, but keep working amounts in gift tins from Michael's. I use different tins, each with a unique color and/or pattern for different grades of solder.

Color Code your solder using colored Sharpie markers.

Protect Charcoal Blocks by making a box for them to fit in. This will prolong their useful life. You can also wrap the sides in binding wire.

Diane Falkenhagen has some firebrick from a disassembled kiln, which has readymade grooves in it. When she solders a piece over the groove, she can get the flame beneath the object.

Solder Balls: Using solder balls instead of pallions will help prevent solder lugs that later have to be removed. Also, solder balls tend to stick to the seam when soldering bezels. One idea from Diane Falkenhagen is to keep a block of hard charcoal on your soldering bench. Scribe an 'S,' 'M,' and 'H' (and 'X' if you use eutectic or extra hard) on the block and use the appropriate area to ball up each kind of solder. You can ball it up in advance, then just apply enough heat to melt the flux and pick it up with a soldering pick when you need it. I now use this method almost exclusively and find it very helpful for minimizing cleanup.

Soldering props: Washers, nickels, and steel T-pins can hold work down or support pieces that are at different heights. Various 'nests' constructed of binding or copper wire can raise up pieces so you can get heat under them.

To make the circular wire ones shown in the picture at right, use about 18 inches of 14 to 16 gauge copper wire. Wrap it around a dowel. Take it off the dowel and bend it into a ring.

From Jan Harrell

*The crosslock tweezers shown in the lower picture are from Micromark.





When stick soldering: Feed the wire solder through a piece of tubing which has a 90 degree bend near the end

From Charles Lewton-Brain

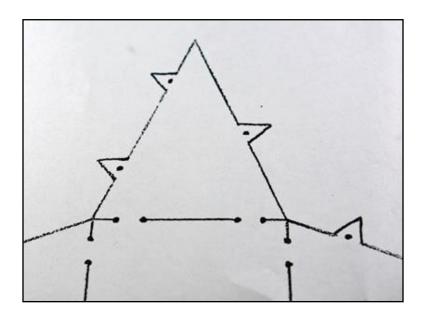
Use soft firebricks for soldering. If you get extra soft bricks (#23 or #24), you can even push pieces of jewelry into them – like earning posts.

From Patty Scott

If you'd prefer to avoid soldering altogether, you can connect things with tabs. Enameling students who took a recent workshop with Nisa Blackmon, learned about making tabbed forms. Here's one tip from Nisa:

Pierced Folds: Instead of scoring metal for bending, you can pierce a series of lines with bridges of metal in-between (see diagram below). The metal will fold easily along the pierced line. You can also make perforations - a hole or series of drilled holes. These are useful to create a weakness where you want a tab to bend.

Idea and diagram from Nisa Blackmon





Priscilla Frake began making jewelry in the late 1990s after taking courses at the Revere Academy in San Francisco. She is now engaged in making silver/mixed metal/enamel jewelry and sculpture based on images of the Cosmos.

Educational Scholarship

The HMAG Educational Scholarship will award \$500 annually to one Texas or Louisiana student for the purpose of enrolling in a semester-long Metalsmithing and Jewelry course.

The student need not have previous jewelry and metalsmithing experience, but will need to provide 3-5 examples of recently created artwork in any medium.

In exchange for the scholarship, the recipient will make a presentation to the HMAG membership in the form of a brief live lecture or short article for the HMAG newsletter following the experience.

The recipient will receive a complimentary year-long membership to HMAG and will be featured in the HMAG newsletter as well as on the HMAG website.

The recipient will be chosen based on a combination of merit and need. Applicants need not be HMAG members, but must reside in Texas or Louisiana, and demonstrate proof of enrollment in a Metalsmithing and Jewelry course at an eligible 2-year or 4-year institution.

The next deadline is May 15, 2014, for use during the 2014-2015 school year. HMAG will coordinate with the applicant's chosen school to award the scholarship funds."

To apply online visit: http://new.hmag.org/education-3/

Coming Soon

This fall, HMAG will offer a scholarship for an HMAG member to attend any educational opportunity of their choosing! The winner will be awarded up to \$500 to take a class, workshop, or other educational opportunity in the metals field for the purpose of furthering their personal or professional metalsmithing goals.

Metalsmithing / Jewelry Courses in the Houston Area

Alvin Junior College

DianeFalkenhagen diane@dianefalkenhagen.com http://www.alvincollege.edu

Art League of Houston

Mary Rogers

maryrogers60@hotmail.com

http://www.artleaguehouston.org/artclasses.html

Glassell School, MFAH

Sandie Zilker spzilker@sbcglobal.net http://www.mfah.org/visit/glassell-studio-school

Houston Community College Central

Corey Ackelmire corey.ackelmire@hccs.edu
http://central.hccs.edu/portal/site/central

Houston Community College Stafford

Martha Ferguson

<u>mfergusonstudio@gmail.com</u>

http://southwest.hccs.edu/portal/site/southwest

Lone Star College Montgomery

Melissa Walter

<u>Melissa.K.Walter@lonestar.edu</u>

http://www.lonestar.edu/montgomery.htm

San Jacinto College South

Jeff McGee

<u>Jeffrey.McGee@sjcd.edu</u> http://www.sanjac.edu

Upcoming Member Exhibition Show Your Metal II



18 Hands Gallery April 5-20, 2014 Submit by Sunday, March 14, 2014

Eligibility

Open to all HMAG members. Submit up to 4 pieces.

Fee

\$25 for HMAG Members
Any checks should be payable to Houston Metal Arts Guild, Inc.

Juror Val Link

Jurying will be done from images. Submit up to 4 artworks with one detail of each work as digital images in 300 dpi—4"x6" (1200x1800 pixels) in JPG format.

For example: entry #, title, and what it is, i.e. filename should read like:

MLD, Entry #1, "Reisa" bracelet

*One image per piece + one detail acceptable.

There are two ways to provide your entry:

Go online to www.hmag.org, on the homepage under the Show Your Metal II.

Click on "submit your entry securely online" and follow instructions.

You may pay online as well.

- or -

Mail or deliver your labeled CD, Entry Form and Check to:

Mary Davenport, 2727 Kirby Drive, Unit 14 L, Houston, TX 77098

Full Prospectus and Entry Form for submitting by mail is available online.

All pieces accepted in the show <u>must be for sale.</u> Please quote RETAIL PRICES on any entry information. 18 Hands Gallery will be take a 50% commission on all sold pieces.

There will be no discounting of any show pieces.

Insurance

The work will be insured while in 18 Hands Gallery possession. The artist is responsible for insuring work while in transit (both ways).

Rules & Conditions

Once your work is accepted into the show, all works must remain for the duration of the show. 18 Hands Gallery reserves the right to photograph work for publicity purposes. Submission of the entry application signifies the artist's understanding and acceptance of the rules and conditions of the show. All pieces accepted in the show must be for sale. The commission rate is 50%. Please quote **RETAIL** prices on any entry information

Upcoming Events

TXRX Program

3D printers extraordinaire and non-profit hackerspace creators TXRX will be giving a demonstration and lecture about their organization and how we might be able to work together in the future.

Where Glassell School of Art When Friday, March 21, 2014

Gathering of the Guilds

HMAG will have an outdoor table for the Houston Museum Experience Zone 2. Forged copper and brass fibulas will be our demonstration and community activity.

We will need volunteers to help work the table and promote HMAG to our visitors. Be sure to tell your friends and family to come by and check us and the rest of the Houston craft community out!

An email announcement with volunteer information will be sent soon

Where

The Houston Center for Contemporary Craft When
Saturday, April 26, 2014
10:00 am—5:00 pm

Sculptural Forms in Sheet Metal Workshop

HMAG President and Professor of Art at San Jacinto College South Jeff McGee will instruct workshop attendees in the sculptural qualities of sheet metal. Plasticity and malleability will be the focus with the ultimate goal of creating form that can generate content. From large to small scale techniques in synclastic and anticlastic raising to creasing, fold-forming, and using an English Wheel; this two-day workshop will be hands-on, so get your work gloves and earplugs ready. It's going to be LOUD!!!

Where

San Jacinto College South

When

Saturday, May 31 & Sunday, June 1, 2014

Cost

\$175

2013/14 Member Achievements

Becky Burt

 Named one of their annual People To Watch in 2013 by New Orleans Magazine:

http://www.myneworleans.com/New-Orleans-Magazine/September -2013/Our-2013-Class-People-to-Watch/

- Featured in the New Orleans' *Times Picayune's* online version:
 http://www.nola.com/arts/index.ssf/2013/12/
 found object art now at coving.html#incart river
- Received the Award of Distinction ribbon for the Jewelry class at the Covington 3 Rivers Art Festival in Covington, LA.

Diane Falkenhagen

- Four brooches included in the exhibition, 21st Century Heirlooms, at the Racine Art Museum, curated by Lena Vigna, Curator of Exhibitions.
- Taught an October workshop on mixed-media jewelry techniques for the Alaska Metal Arts Guild in Anchorage, Alaska.
- Look for Diane's work in the newly published book, <u>Behind The Brooch: A Closer Look at Backs Catches, and Pin Stems</u> by San Antonio author and artist, Lorena Angulo, Schiffer Publishing (available February 28th).

Jeff McGee

 Proposal accepted as a Finalist for the Woodlands Waterway Arts Council Art Bench Project. Final judging for commissions will take place by July 1st.

Upcoming Elections

HMAG holds annual elections for Board of Director positions at the start of each Membership Year. Keep an eye out for the call for nominations and more election information in the coming months. Board positions are volunteer, 12 month positions and are listed at right.

Being a Board Member is the single easiest way to get involved with HMAG events and programming. If you have any questions regarding Board Position duties please contact Jeff McGee at HMAGPres@gmail.com.

HMAG Board Members

President / Newsletter: Jeff McGee

HMAGPres@gmail.com

Vice President: Chuck Schwarz

HMAGVicepres@gmail.com

Programs: Cathy Prieto-Smith

HMAGProg@gmail.com

Librarian: Sissie O'Malley

HMAGLibr@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jo Preston

HMAGTreas@gmail.com

Special Projects/Shows Co-Director: Mary Davenport

HMAGProj@gmail.com

Special Projects/Shows Co-Director: Mary Jarvis

HMAGProj@gmail.com

Education Outreach: Corey Ackelmire

HMAGEduc@gmail.com

Communications: A lita Buck

HMAGComm@gmail.com

Membership: Nathan Dube

HMAGMembr@gmail.com

Secretary: Chris Magisano

HMAGSecr@gmail.com

Workshops: Terry Fromm

HMAGWkshp@gmail.com

Houston Metal Arts Guild (HMAG) exists to provide education and promote public awareness and interest in the metal arts by enriching the local community through activities relating to the fields of metalsmithing and jewelry. HMAG membership is open to anyone interested in supporting the metal arts. Membership benefits include discounted workshops, a free page in the HMAG.org Member Gallery, invitations to exhibit your work, and technical and business programs. Join HMAG today! In addition, HMAG communicates breaking news and artist opportunities via email. These communications are free and a great way to stay in touch with the Houston metal arts community.

HMAG Statement of Purpose

The Houston Metal Arts Guild, Inc. is a non-profit organization made up of people with varying interests and involvement in traditional and contemporary jewelry and metalsmithing. The Guild was founded to provide for the exchange of ideas and information, as well as offer affordable educational opportunities to its members and the public. Our activities include: a bi-annual newsletter, exhibitions and a series of aesthetic, technical and business workshops/lectures. The skills, energy and enthusiasm of the Houston Metals Arts Guild, Inc. members promote and sustain its successful programs. We welcome and encourage participation by everyone.

HMAG Membership Benefits

Discounted workshops—Invitations to exhibit your work—Technical and business programs—Visiting artist lectures and panel discussions—Available online gallery space at https://mw.html.nc.nih.gov/mw.html. HMAG.org—Full access to website including member directory—Access to our comprehensive library—Networking with local and visiting artists—Exhibition openings—Social events—10% discount at Jemco USA store



Custom Student Supply Kits—Supplies for Resale—Personal Shopping Custom Metal Cuts—POs Accepted—Lowest Prices

Do your students have difficulty finding the right supplies for the lowest prices? Do you need supplies to sell to your classes? Would you like to have a custom supply kit for your students? EGGM has the answer! We provide basic supplies to instructors and students for the best prices.

Please take a look at our website, <u>EGGMEnterprises.com</u>, to see what we offer. Don't see what you need? Just give us a call (310-780-6075) or send an email (<u>eggmenterprises@earthlink.net</u>) and we will obtain your items for the best price.

Also, please include us in your supplier list! We have fast shipping and the best customer service anywhere.

Thank you! Liz Guild, Owner EGGM

HOUSTON METAL ARTS GUILD

Membership is annual and runs from June 1st through May 31st

New Membership \$30	Renewing Membership \$30				
Family Membership \$50	Full Time Student Membership \$15				
Corporate Membership \$100					
Corporate members receive a 1/2 pag newsletter.	e color ad in an issue of our bi-annual				
Prorated memberships are available by check only. For more information please email membership@hmag.org.					
Please enclose a check made payable to the PO Box 270452, Houston, TX 77277-0452	Houston Metal Arts Guild, Inc. and return to:				
You can also join online at www.hmag.org.					
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Work Phone E As a non-profit organization material assistance from our members with the second second phoning Members workshop Committee	naged by volunteers, we need with various HMAG functions. Write an article for the newsletter				



PO Box 270452 Houston Metal Arts Guild, Inc.

Houston, TX 77277-0452

HMAG Website



REMINDER!

Metal is coming up at Exhibition Show Your The HMAG Member 18 Hands Gallery.

Check page 14 for a synopsis, dates, and entry procedures.