

Meet and Greet



Q Can you tell us about your career until this point and when you started making silver clay jewellery?

A I trained in fashion design and textiles; I started making wedding dresses then I moved to work with various crafts and all sorts of media. I later became an adult education teacher in arts and crafts, I came across metal clay accidentally, but it has been my devoted passion ever since.

Q What inspires your jewellery makes?

A The challenge to push myself on a journey of discovery to find a technique or skill I've not tried before inspires me. To create projects that I can go on to share and teach in a workshop. I currently find myself being drawn into creating pieces that have movement and mechanism such as hinges and locks.

Q What has been the highlight of your career so far?

A I feel very lucky to have studied under the world's best artists in metal clay, each one has been such a highlight. When I travelled to Japan it was such an honour to train with the Japanese masters at the factory and offices of Aida, the makers of Art Clay Silver. The experience will be a memory I treasure forever.

Q What is your favourite jewellery making product to use?

A Simply metal clay in all its forms. When I began using metal clay there were two bands of silver. Now the metal clay family is growing with many brands of base metals too. The challenge is keeping up-to-date with the rapid growth!

Q What outlets do you use to sell your jewellery?

A I predominantly teach, and focus all my attention on running and teaching at Craftworx Studio, which leaves little time for making to sell. However, I do sell on a small scale at events I attend usually nearer to Christmas. I also sell through two local galleries all year round. I open my door three times a year to an 'Open Studio Event', where the visiting public are invited to browse and shop at all the artist studios on the farm.

Q How would you describe your style?

A I'm not entirely sure I have ever settled on one style, but others tell me they think I have. I know I like formal symmetry in my work and currently love the articulated pieces I'm making.



This month we interview metal clay expert Tracey Spurgin. She tells us about her career and her amazing farm based studio in East Yorkshire!



Q Can you tell us a bit about your studio and where it is based?

A The Craftworx Studio is one of eight artists' studios situated in superbly renovated barns on a working farm, set just outside the picturesque village of Bishop Burton in East Yorkshire on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds. The modern conversion to the studios provides a light and spacious place; it is a very well equipped facility with all the essential tools and equipment for your use. The studio also offers full wheelchair access and facilities.



Q Whose work in your field do you admire and why?

A I have a few favourite artists, each different in style, but all equally talented. Holly Gage inspires me with her attention to detail in her natural forms pieces. Hattie Sanderson creates quirky, contemporary designs. Terry Kovalick, with his time-consuming, precision detailed hand created pieces, are quite simply stunning.

Q Do you teach any workshops?

A I do teach courses and workshops mainly from my own studio, but equally I also travel across the UK to colleges, shops, museums and community groups. I was recently invited to Europe to teach for a group of metal clay tutors, I'm always happy to receive invitations to travel to teach metal clay.

Q Do you have anything exciting planned for the coming year?

A My plans for the coming year are to continue to grow Craftworx Studio and seek out another major artist for next year's master class. There are some exciting plans on the horizon, but not yet finalised, so keep a look out on the Craftworx website. I also have a personal target: to walk 100 miles to raise £1000!

Q What advice would you give to someone who is keen to learn more about making jewellery?

A Metal clay is an amazing material to work with, and we all want good value for money. Find a good quality course, with a qualified instructor, look for recommendations and testimonials as they will be able to give you plenty of sound advice. Do your homework and compare who offers what. Check out the facilities they offer and ask for details – some things that might seem incidental but can be important e.g. parking, disabled access etc. What is included in the cost of the courses? What will you be making? Are the clay and jewellery findings included? What will you be taking home? Read the terms and conditions when you book. When you have found the right class for you, relax and enjoy and have some happy clay time!

Win a jewellery making workshop worth £130!

Tracey has kindly offered to giveaway a free workshop place at the Craftworx Studio in East Yorkshire! The prize winner will attend the 'Introduction to Silver Clay' workshop and can choose from a selection of dates (See Craftworx website for details). All materials are included too!

The workshop experience will give you a sound knowledge and skill base with all the tips and techniques of working with silver clay. In this relaxing but inspiring atmosphere you will have a wide selection of tools and equipment to use, for you to gain knowledge and confidence in working with silver clay. You will work with three silver clay products to complete three pieces of fine silver jewellery. The day is aimed at the beginner with little or no experience of making jewellery or handling metal clay.

How to enter...

To be in with a chance of winning this amazing prize just answer this simple question. Where is Tracey's studio based? Is it a) On a farm, b) By the sea, c) An industrial estate. Email your answer to bab@trapelet with 'Craftworx' as the subject. Include your full name and telephone number in the email. Competition closes on 10th May. Winner will be notified by email on Monday 13th May.

About Craftworx...

You will find Craftworx Studio set in East Yorkshire near the village of Bishop Burton. Led by Principal artist Tracey Spurgin, a professional practitioner and experienced tutor, Tracey offers a wide range of jewellery courses and workshops. For further details log onto www.craftworx.co.uk Craftworx Studio, Cold Harbour Farm, Bishop Burton, East Yorkshire HU17 8YD

Please note: In the event you cancel your place, no alternative will be offered. For further terms and conditions log onto the Beads & Beyond website www.beadsandbeyondmagazine.com and click the giveaways link.

Further details

To see more of Tracey's work please log onto the following:
Web: www.craftworx.co.uk Email: Tracey@craftworx.co.uk
Tel: 07961 883115 - Facebook Tracey Spurgin or Craftworx