



Artist Statement

Nettie Thompson

I pay attention to things.

It's part scientific examination, tempered by childlike fascination.

My work begins with immersive research. Whether this entails a morning hike in the woods armed with sketchbook and pencil, an afternoon spent deliberating over botanical illustrations and geology textbooks in the library, or an evening reviewing architectural magazines, a period of intense study usually heralds the beginning of any gestating project.

Jewelry is both functional and decorative, a personal decision and yet on public display, joining seemingly disparate themes into a cohesive whole. This play of one concept against another exercises a pivotal role in my work. Small scale jewelry interests me specifically because of the opportunities it presents to transform large-scale design elements into wearable artifacts. My work attempts to see forms of biological machinery in a new light, capturing the wonder, awe, and scientific inquiry inherent in these structures, and combining that with an aesthetic appreciation of form. I distill these forms of complicated biology into flat, curvilinear planes that intersect in deceptively simple ways, playing with the mechanics of function and motion.

From research to realization, my process leads to an exploration of the dichotomous horizons of metalsmithing and jewelry, and helps me to share my own version of seeing things.

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Media</u>	<u>Original Format</u>
Figure 1:	Geological Constraints	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Copper; 3" x 7" x 1"
Figure 2:	Geological Constraints (Detail)	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Copper; 3" x 7" x 1"
Figure 3:	Window	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Copper, brass; 4" x 6" x 1"
Figure 4:	Window (Detail)	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Copper, brass; 4" x 6" x 1"
Figure 5:	Marsh Necklace	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Copper, brass, silver, enamel; 7" x 12" x 0.5"
Figure 6:	Teapot	Metalsmithing	Copper, brass, 6" x 15" x 6"
Figure 7:	Teapot (Detail)	Metalsmithing	Copper, brass, 6" x 15" x 6"
Figure 8:	Orbicular	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Silver, peridot; 1" x 1" x 1"
Figure 9:	Orbicular (Detail)	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Silver, peridot; 1" x 1" x 1"
Figure 10:	Trihedral	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Silver, garnet. 1" x 0.5" x 0.5"
Figure 11:	Trihedral (Detail)	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Silver, garnet. 1" x 0.5" x 0.5"
Figure 12:	Window	Metalsmithing	Copper, brass; 4" x 6" x 1"
Figure 13:	Red Fox, <i>Vulpes vulpes fulves</i>	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Silver, enamel; 1" x 0.5" x 0.5"
Figure 14:	Red Fox, <i>Vulpes vulpes fulves</i> (Detail)	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Silver, enamel; 1" x 0.5" x 0.5"
Figure 15:	Collared Peccary, <i>Pecari tajacu</i>	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Silver, citrine; 1" x 0.75" x 0.5"
Figure 16:	Collared Peccary, <i>Pecari tajacu</i> (Detail)	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Silver, citrine; 1" x 0.75" x 0.5"
Figure 17:	Food Chain	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Silver, red brass; 8" x 9" x 1"
Figure 18:	Food Chain (Detail)	Metalsmithing/Jewelry	Silver, red brass; 8" x 9" x 1"



Figure 1: Geological Constraints.



Figure 2: Geological Constraints (Detail).



Figure 3: Window.



Figure 4: Window (Detail).



Figure 5: Marsh Necklace.



Figure 6: Teapot.



Figure 7: Teapot (Detail).



Figure 8: Orbicular.



Figure 9: Orbicular (Detail).



Figure 10: Trihedral.



Figure 11: Trihedral (Detail).



Figure 12: Window.



Figure 13: Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes fulves*.



Figure 14: Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes fulves* (Detail).



Figure 15: Collared Peccary, *Pecari tajacu*.



Figure 16: Collared Peccary, *Pecari tajacu* (Detail).



Figure 17: Food Chain.



Figure 18: Food Chain (Detail).