

Kiff Slemmons

Born 1944, USA. Washington State 1969-2002, Chicago 2002-present

EDUCATION

Self-taught as a jeweler and metalsmith.

Parsons School of Design, Metals Program in Japan, 1983.

University of Iowa, 1963-1968. B.A. Art and French. Summa cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

The Sorbonne, Paris, France. 1963.

Scripps College, Claremont, California. 1962.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Artist who makes jewelry, 1970 to the present.

Visiting artist and lecturer: Humboldt State University, 1993; San Diego State University, 1999; Cranbrook Academy, 2003; Indiana University, 2003; Metalwerx, Boston, 2001; Texas Tech University, 2002, 2005; SUNY New Paltz, NY, 2004; University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2006; Ball State University, 2007; California College of Art, Oakland, CA, 2008; University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, 2010; University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, 2014

Artist in Residence, at the request of Francisco Toledo, in the paper atelier, Arte Papel Oaxaca, San Agustin Etla, Oaxaca, Mexico, 2000. Created designs of paper jewelry for an exhibition at the Instituto de Artes Gráficas de Oaxaca. Donated designs to the atelier and continued yearly contributions through 2019.

LECTURES

“From the Outside Out”, Yale University, New Haven, CT 2022

“Agave!” Epiphany Center for the Arts, Chicago, IL 2021

"Finding the Object of Northwest Jewelry," Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, Washington 2019

"Fifty/50," National SNAG conference, Chicago, IL 2019

“Starting Points, A Conversation between Glenn Adamson and Kiff Slemmons,” Heller Gallery, New York, NY, video on You Tube, 2014

“More Than One to Make One,” Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, 2014, 92nd Street Y, NY, 2012; SOFACHicago, 2012; Seattle Metals Symposium, Seattle, WA, 2013; University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL 2014 (video on Art Jewelry Forum website); Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL, 2014 “Beyond Repair,” SOFA New York, 2007; Ball State University, 2007

“Re:Pair and Imperfection,” Palo Alto Arts Center, Dec. 2006; University of Wisconsin, Madison 2006, University Wisconsin, Whitewater, WI, 2009

“Connections,” Massachusetts School of Art, Boston, 2004

“An Avant Garden,” National SNAG conference, Seattle, 1998; Presentation House Gallery, Vancouver, B.C., Canada 1999; San Diego State University, 1999; Palo Alto Art Center, 2000.

“Jewelers and Insects: A 4000 Year Relationship,” to Jewelry/Metals Symposium, Seattle, 1996; University of Nebraska, 1997; SOFA Chicago, 1997; Issues and Influences Lecture Series, University of Washington, 1999; Daphne Farago Lecture Series, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, 1999.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY

The Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Die Neue Sammlung, The Design Museum, Munich

Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

The Museum of Arts and Design, NY, NY

The Renwick Gallery, Washington, DC

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA

The Mint Museum of Craft and Design, Charlotte, NC

Racine Art Museum, Racine, WI

Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, HI

Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA

Chateau Musee, Cagnes-sur-mer, France

SELECTED INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS

“Paper as Protection and Gift/Recent Work by Kiff Slemmons,” The Jewelry Library and Gallery Loupe, New York, 2019

“Kiff Slemmons: Collective Presence,” Craft in America Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, 2018

“Kiff Slemmons + Arte Papel Vista Hermosa,” CasSa (Centro de las Artes San Agustín), 20th Anniversary Arte Papel Vista Hermosa, San Agustin Etlá, Mexico, 2018

“Kiff Slemmons and Arte Papel Vista Hermosa,” 10th International Shibori Symposium, Taller de Papel, San Agustin Etlá, Oaxaca, 2016

“Tools for Thought: Jewelry by Kiff Slemmons,” Bradbury Art Museum, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR, 2016

“Cut, Fold and Form,” Kiff Slemmons, Racine Art Museum, 2016

“Starting Points,” Douglas Dawson Gallery, Chicago, IL, 2015; Heller Gallery through Gallery Loupe, New York, NY, 2014

“Pride of Paper: Kiff Slemmons and Arte Papel Oaxaca,” Chicago Cultural Center, 2010: Suyama Peterson Deguchi, Seattle, WA, 2011

“Puako,” Kiff Slemmons & Kay Sekimachi, Velvet da Vinci, San Francisco, 2009

“Kiff Slemmons: Artifact into Art,” Douglas Dawson Gallery, Chicago, December, 2008

“Kiff Slemmons & Arte Papel Oaxaca,” Luminaire, Chicago, 2008

“New Jewelry from Arte Papel,” Tienda Q Gallery, Oaxaca, Mexico, 2007

“Re:Pair and Imperfection,” Chicago Cultural Center, 2006; Palo Alto Art Center, 2006; Philadelphia Art Alliance, 2007 (catalog)

“Jewelry by Kiff Slemmons,” Inaugural Exhibition Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma , WA 2003

“Round Surround” Julie: Artisans Gallery, NYC, NY 2002

“The Thought of Things: Jewelry by Kiff Slemmons” Mid-career retrospective, Palo Alto Art Center, Jan.23, 2000; The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, July, 2000 (catalog)

“Cuts and Repose,” Susan Cummins Gallery, Mill Valley, CA 1997.

“Insectopedia,” Mobilia Gallery, Boston, 1996

“Figures of Speech.” Mia Gallery, Seattle, WA, 1990

“Hands of the Heroes,” Garth Clark Gallery, New York, NY 1989

SELECTED INVITATIONAL GROUP EXHIBITIONS

“Agave!”, curated by: Trine Ellitsgaard & Kiff Slemmons, Epiphany Center for the Arts, 2021-2022

“One World / 40 Artists Respond to Covid-19, Gallery Loupe, Montclair, NJ, 2020

“The Body Transformed, “ Metropolitan Museum of New York, 2019

“Unique by Design, Contemporary Jewelry in the Donna Schneier Collection,” Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, NY, 2014 (catalog)

“Multiple Exposures, Jewelry and Photography,” Museum of Arts and Design, NY, NY, 2014 (catalog)

“Still Life Masterpieces, A Visual Feast from the Museum of Fine Arts Boston,” Nagoya, Japan, 2012; North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC, 2013 (catalog)

“Second Lives: Remixing the Ordinary,” Inaugural Exhibition, Museum of Art and Design, NY, NY. 2008 (catalog)

“Glass Wear,” The Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY, curated by Ursula Newman, travel to Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH and Schmuckmuseum, Pforzheim, Germany (catalog) 2007-2008

“Ornament as Art: Avant Garde Jewelry from the Helen Williams Drutt Collection,” Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX (catalog) 2007

“Jewelry by Artists: The Daphne Farago Collection,” Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA 2007

“Craft in America: Expanding Traditions,” National Touring Exhibition 2007-2009, Including a PBS documentary and a companion book.

“Resources: Steel, Rubber, Coal and Salt,” Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 2005

“The Perfect Collection: A Shared Vision for Contemporary Craft,” Fuller Museum of Art, MA 2004

“Triennial 9 Form and Content: Corporal Identity—Body Language,” Museum of Arts and Design, NY; Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany. (catalog, travel). 2003

“Micromegas.” Bavarian Association for Arts and Crafts, Munich. May, 2001. Curated by Otto Künzli. (catalog) International travel, 2001-2003.

“Beyond the Obvious: Rethinking Jewelry,” San Francisco Craft and Folk Art Museum, 1999, Arkansas Arts Center and Toledo Museum of Art, 2000. (catalog)

“Brooching It Diplomatically: A Tribute to Madeleine K. Albright”, Helen Drutt, Philadelphia, 1998; Het Druithuis, Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art, s’Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands, 1998; Museum of Art and Design, Helsinki, Finland, 1999. (catalog)

“Narratives ’98,” Design Museum, Helsinki, Finland, 1998. (catalog)

“Hello Again! A New Wave of Recycled Art and Design,” Oakland Museum of California, 1997. Curated by Susan Subtle.

“American Revelations,” Society of North American Goldsmiths touring exhibition: England, United States, 1996-1998. Juried by Richard Mawdsley. (catalog)

“Schmuckszene 95”, Munich, Germany, 1995

Helen Drutt Collection--Jewelry 1964-1994. Stedelijk Museum, 1995

"Tales and Traditions: Story Telling in 20th Century American Craft," Craft Alliance and Washington University, St. Louis, 1993 (catalog)

"Documents Northwest: Six Jewelers," Seattle Art Museum, 1993 (catalog)

Artwear, New York, 1987

Electrum Gallery, London, 1984, 1985

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

“Tag You’re It” curated by: Kiff Slemmons, Gallery Loupe, The Jewelry Library, Epiphany Center for the Arts, Gallery 2052 & Taller?, 2020-present

“Agave!”, curated by: Trine Ellitsgaard & Kiff Slemmons, Epiphany Center for the Arts, 2021-2022

“Purpose, Process, Paper”

PUBLICATIONS (other than exhibition catalogs cited above)

- Kiff Slemmons, *Tag You’re It*, an exhibition and book including the work of 40 artists, 2021. Exhibition: The Jewelry Library and Gallery Loupe. Book designed by Jason Pickleman.
- Ursula Isle-Neuman, *Ring Redux*, The Susan Grant Lewin Collection, Arnoldsche Art Publishers in collaboration with SCAD Museum of Art, 2021
- Tätigkeitsbericht 2020, *Kunsth Handwerk fördern und sammeln: Ein Blick auf 5 Jahre Stiftungsarbeit*, Danner-Stiftung, Munich, 2021
- Melanie Holcomb, editor, *The Body Transformed*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 2019
- Suzanne Ramljak, *Unique by Design*, Contemporary Jewelry in the Donna Schneier Collection, Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, 2014
- Ursula Ilse-Neuman, *Multiple Exposures*, Jewelry and Photography, Officina Libraria in collaboration with the Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY, 2014

- Suzanne Ramljak, *On Body and Soul*, Contemporary Armor to Amulets, Schiffer Publishing, Ltd., Atglen, PA, 2014
- Damian Skinner, editor, *Contemporary Jewelry in Perspective*, Art Jewelry Forum, Lark Jewelry and Beading, 2013
- Janet Koplos and Bruce Metcalf, *Makers: A History of American Studio Craft*, University of North Carolina Center for Craft, Creativity and Design, Chapel Hill, NY, 2010
- Ursula Ilse-Neuman, *Inspired Jewelry from the Museum of Arts and Design*, ACC Editions, New York, 2009
- Kiff Slemmons, *Hands of the Heroes*, essay by Mija Riedel, poem by Bruce Whiteman. Chicago, 2009. Book designed by Jason Pickleman.
- Lois Sherr Dubin, *The History of Beads*, Abrams, 2009.
- "On Imperfection", by Kiff Slemmons. My Eye, in *Metalsmith*, Vol. 28, No. 1. 2008.
- *The Compendium Finale of Contemporary Jewelers*. Darling Publications, 2008
- Jo Lauria and Steve Fenton, *Craft in America: Celebrating Two Centuries of Artists and Objects*, 2007
- Yvonne Kulagowski, *The Earrings Book*, A & C Black, London, 2007
- Carolyn Benesh, "Kiff Slemmons, Re:Pair and Imperfection." Exhibition review, *Ornament Magazine*, Vol. 30, No. 1, 2006
- Margaret Hawkins, "Re:Pair and Imperfection." Feature and cover, *American, Craft Magazine*, Oct./Nov. 2006
- *Contemporary Silver. Part II. Recent Acquisitions*, Seymour Rabinovitch, Merrell Publishers Limited, 2005
- Lark Books: *500 Rings*, 2003; *1000 Rings*, 2004; *500 Brooches*, 2004; *500 Bracelets*, 2005; *500 Necklaces*, 2006
- Li Lundin, "Big Ideas Made Small/Small Materials Big Use." In *Artist*, No. 311, March, 2001. Taiwan.
- Marcia Morse, "Kiff Slemmons Mines Life's Malleable Material." Review of *The Thought of Things*, The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu. Honolulu Weekly, Aug, 2000.
- Tim McCreight, *The Metalsmith's Book of Boxes and Lockets*, Hand Books Press, Madison, WI 1999.
- Toni Greenbaum, American author, *Dictionnaire International du Bijou*, Edition du Regard, Paris 1998.
- Tim McCreight, *Jewelry: Fundamentals of Metalsmithing*, Brynmorgen Press, 1997
- Helen W. Drutt, Peter Dormer, *Jewelry of Our Time: Art, Ornament and Obsession*. Rizzoli, 1995.
- Lois Fichner-Rathus, *Understanding Art*, Fourth Edition, Prentice Hall, 1995, (illustration and text)
- Susan Grant Lewin, *One of a Kind; American Art Jewelry Today*, Abrams, 1994. pp.190-193
- Mija Riedel, "Uncommon Means of Measure: The Jewelry of Kiff Slemmons," *Metalsmith*, Summer, 1993 (Cover and eight pages)
- Dorothy Spencer, "Kiff Slemmons, Susan Cummins Gallery," *Metalsmith*, Summer, 1992
- Andrea Dinoto, "Intersecting Visions," on "Crossroads" show at Artwear, curated by Robert Lee Morris, *American Craft*, Aug/Sept, 1992
- Carolyn Benesch, "Of Myth, Magic, Power and Memory," *Ornament*, Summer, 1992.
- David LaPlantz, ed., *Jewelry/Metalwork: 1991 Survey*, Bayside, CA 1991. (cover)
- Antonia Schwed, "Kiff Slemmons' Hands of the Heroes," *Metalsmith*, Vol. 10, 1990

- Susan Biskeborn, *Artists at Work, 25 Glass Makers, Ceramists and Jewelers*, Seattle, WA, 1990
- Sylvia Kennedy, "Kiff Slemmons," *Ornament*, Vol 13, No. 3, 1990
- Sarah Bodine, "New Directions in American Metalsmithing," *Korean Monthly Crafts*, June, 1988
- Sylvia Kennedy, "Kiff Slemmons: A Study in Continuity and Change," *Ornament* Vol. 9, No. 1, 1985

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Smithsonian Archives of American Art, Oral Interview, 2007

Aileen Osborn Webb Award, 2006: Fellow of the American Craft Council Commission: Washington State Arts

Commission, "Art and Autobiography: Ten Artists". A group of artists chosen from a national search to create a series of ten works for use in art education in the public schools of Washington, 1991