

San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design
Exhibition description

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Re-Purpose, Re-Use, Re-CREATE!
Artists Discover Hidden Sparkle in the Discarded

Re-Purpose, Re-Use, Re-CREATE! is an educational showcase of eight to twelve wearable treasures made from re-purposed and re-cycled materials. Invited artists are members of the Metal Arts Critique Collective (M.A.C.), co-founded in 1997 by Shana Astractan and Christine Dhein. With the idea of an exhibition in mind, Dhein gave the group an assignment: each member of the group had to create a piece of wearable art from an array of small circuit boards, which she rescued from the dump. The industrial materials of the circuit boards are mixed with silver wire and gold plating, adding a precious element to what would otherwise be considered trash. The artists transformed these discarded materials other re-purposed materials to create brilliant, sparkling jewels.

Exhibiting of a variety of jewelry objects created by different artists using the same re-purposed materials will demonstrate that the possibilities for re-purposing are endless; one is only limited by one's own imagination. The artists will also include wearable pieces made from a variety of other re-purposed materials to illustrate that the individual voice of each maker is carried through their work, regardless of their choice of materials.

Building on the theme of re-purposing discarded materials, the exhibition is designed to educate the public by including facts about waste. Did you know that each day 2000 tons of garbage is trucked from San Francisco to the landfill? This requires 100 round trips for a total of 12,000 miles. Facts about electronic waste, and some of the issues involved in gold mining could also be addressed. For example, most discarded circuit boards contain at least some gold; producing 1 ounce of gold creates 70 tons of waste. The format of the exhibition will include tips for simple lifestyle changes to lessen environmental impact. This information will be presented in a way that makes the viewer reflect on their own life, ask themselves questions, think outside the box and leave feeling empowered to make a change.

More About the Metal Arts Critique Collective

Over the past 10 years, members of M.A.C. have encouraged and fostered the growth and development of each other's work. As active leaders in the local arts community, these artists have brought this creative spirit into the classrooms of

post secondary and after-school programs, adult enrichment and certification degrees. These artists are also part of a larger Bay Area movement of studio jewelers through their involvement with the Metal Arts Guild (MAG), established in 1951. M.A.C. member's service on the MAG Board of Directors, including past President and Exhibition and Workshop Coordinators has brought metal art into the broader light of the general public.

Most recently, the group put on *21st Century Salon*, an exhibition of member's work, which included a collaborative piece. Each artist in the group documented their process, with photographs and text, as they transformed the piece to its next manifestation. The finished piece was displayed along with the documentation of each step from its birth as a cast silver ingot all the way to it's culmination as a gold and silver metal sculpture. During the exhibition, the members requested visitors to "critique" the exhibition. The majority of the visitors stated they liked the group piece the most: they could relate to it because they could understand how it was made.

Since the exhibition in 2007, the group has taken the community feedback to heart. Currently the group is focused on working collaboratively and documenting their process of creating art. Through this collaborative process, the idea for the exhibition **Re-Purpose, Re-Use, Re-CREATE!** was born.

For more on the Critique Collective, visit: <http://critiquecollective.rewarestyle.com>