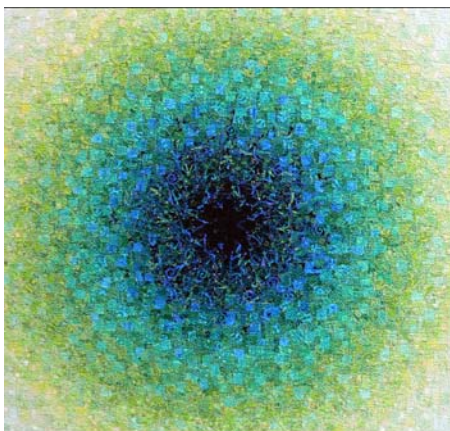


# 2010 Jerry Miller Artist Award Winners



## Melissa Booth, Durham, NC, Jewelry

Ms. Booth Melissa has been a professional jewelry designer and goldsmith for over 22 years. Her work has been exhibited and sold throughout the country in galleries, juried fine art festivals and invitational exhibitions. She is a four time winner of the Wisconsin Jewelers Association's design competition and has been featured in numerous publications. Ms. Booth was introduced to jewelry design and production in high school. It was here that she developed her passion for drawing and painting and became interested in sculpture and three dimensional forms. She continued her art studies at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and as a junior was offered a position with a custom jewelry store. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1989 and continued working for the custom design shop becoming one of their most accomplished designers.



## Rhanna Nyman, Asheville, NC, Fiber-Art

Ms. Nyman says her technique is very much a result of her personal visual language. "I have a deep affinity for a painterly process, where an image is constantly evolving and one can work intuitively and expressively throughout the entire creation of a piece. I also simply love fabrics – their textures, patterns, colors and their infinite versatility. Over the years I have combined for me what is the best of both worlds. I have defined and refined what I am most stimulated by visually, and have paired that with a deep understanding and mastery of my creative thought processes. I have been working with color for such a long time that it functions as a fluent second language for me. People who are fluently bilingual can think in one language and speak in another. For me, it is this way with words or emotions and color.



## Maggie Joynt, Dillsboro, NC, Jewelry

Ms. Joynt says, "I have always found beauty in unexpected places, such as the surface of the rocks outside my studio, or the frayed wings of a well-traveled butterfly. Using various materials including leaves, paper, insect wings, and fabrics, I press patterns and textures directly onto sterling and copper. This process preserves the delicate texture directly onto the metal. These abstract, organic, and textural elements continue to be evident in my work."

Maggie Joynt holds a Bachelor of Arts in Jewelry and Metalsmithing from Illinois State University, where she graduated magna cum laude. She currently lives in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina which provide continuous inspiration for her work. Her open studio and gallery is located at the Riverwood Shops in historic Dillsboro, NC.



### **Jim Whalen, Horse Shoe, NC, Clay**

Mr. Whalen's pots are wheel thrown, burnished and coated with terra sigillata. After bisque firing patterns and images are created with wax resist. The pots then go through a two stage firing process; the first is a low temperature salt firing, the second a sawdust firing. Both of these firings produce random chaotic markings on the surface of each pot. The wax resist separates the effects caused by each process into distinct areas giving definition to the patterns without losing the vitality of chaos. The patterns come from the subconscious. The pots represent Whalen's desire to unite the forces of nature with the forms of the subconscious, exploring and expressing the connection between the two. Salt, sawdust and the iron in the clay produce the variety of earth tones on the smooth surface of the pots. The surface of the pot is reminiscent of polished wood or stone. The simple rounded form combined with the dynamic surface elements results in a work of art that is universal and timeless.



### **Joe Wujcik, Calera, AL, Wood**

Mr. Wujcik began his love for woodworking building tree forts and wood log furniture for his family's cabin in Northern Minnesota. His skills were nurtured in 7th grade shop where he took woodworking instead of Spanish to learn how to make furniture. His favorite class at that time was woodturning where he made his first four wood-turned items—two fishing bobbers, a mallet and a small plate for his Mom, which she still has displayed in her home today. He considers the hollow-form wing vase with semi-precious stone inlays (turquoise and malachite) his signature pieces. Most recently, carved and turned vases have emerged. His art is constantly evolving and changing.



### **Kimberly Kearney, Raleigh, NC, Jewelry**

Ms. Kearney says that she always felt the need to nurture her creative spirit. She says, "While beading, I enter a peaceful place that allows my creativity to flow. Gemstones entice me. As a child, I called them, "pretty rocks"! I brought them home in my pockets. As an adult, I am amazed by the variety of naturally occurring stones. They are the motivation for my artwork. Luminescent strands of pearls, sparkling crystals and a rainbow of seed beads complete my working palette. My designs are created with a needle and thread. Each pass of the needle binds one bead to the next, building color, texture and intricacy. The time I spend creating art jewelry has enriched my life. I hope to share this through my work."