

MAGGI DEBAECKE

Media, PA

WORKS



Untitled #1, enamel on copper with handmade wooden frame, image: 3.75 x 3.75 inches, frame: 10 x 10 inches, \$495



Untitled #2, enamel on copper with handmade wooden frame, image: 3.75 x 3.75 inches, frame: 10 x 10 inches, \$495



Untitled #3, enamel on copper with handmade wooden frame, image: 3.75 x 3.75 inches, frame: 10 x 10 inches, \$495

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Maggi graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art with a BFA degree in 1969. Her major was illustration and after graduation she moved to Philadelphia to begin a career as a fashion illustrator, working for Wannamaker and Lit Brothers department stores. For the next twelve years, she taught illustration, costume history and design at the Studio School of Art and Design, the Hussian School of Art and the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science. During this time she also began experimenting with metals and jewelry design, she enrolled in the metals program at Tyler School of Art and began taking workshops at craft schools, such as, Penland School of Crafts, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Peters Valley Craft Center and Touchstone Center for Crafts. As she improved her skills as a metalsmith, she developed a style that reflects her artistic philosophies and personal taste. Maggi has been an instructor at Penland School of Crafts and is a frequent visitor to North Carolina to visit family.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I am inspired by the multiplicity of visual effects you can create using the fine powder of enamel. It can be layered with transparent colors shining through as in a water color or can be sifted or painted with opaques which give it an acrylic painted appearance. These two methods may even be combined to add even greater variety. You can pour liquid enamel, draw directly on it, or scratch it away from the surface. You can add fire scale for rich, flat blacks or wires and metal shavings for interesting textures to complement each piece. If you add other metals, you can create unique patterns or create a collage effect. The possibilities are endless, which makes this medium so exciting to work with.

The serendipity of enameling can be delightful as well as frustrating. When painting on paper or canvas, the artist has much more control over the colors and the textures. With enameling, the combination of temperature, the time spent in the kiln, and the type of enamels used dictate the outcome of each piece. Sometimes, when you create something wonderful after one firing, it can be lost in the next with the wrong choice of one of these contributing factors. Yet, serendipity can also produce some delightful and unexpected effects. When this happens, your frustrations subside and set the path for a truly aesthetically fascinating and rewarding process