

Artists Statement
Martha Brown
Artjools

I began making jewelry, or stringing beads, around 10 years ago. I was working with my husband in his Leather art business, and painting landscapes and wildlife. I've been craft and art- minded all my life, encouraged by my parents, but not to the point, to my great dismay, to let me attend an actual Art School. Instead I became a Nurse, and practiced the art of healing. One thing led to another, and I fell in love with rocks and stones and their evolvement into beads, and using those beads to create jewelry. Not having the means to take a course in Silversmithing, I heard about the new Silver clay that would fire into pure silver pieces. One local course later, I plunged in and taught myself the rest.

The most exciting thing about Metal Clay is the possibility for texture. Secondly, any form imaginable is possible, with a little ingenuity and work. Since my painting days taught me color, light and shadow, perspective, and composition, I used those qualities to create designs in silver and bronze. I love to spend as much time as possible in the woods and along the trails away from civilization, amongst nature and birds and wildlife. That affords me the opportunity to translate the feelings and found objects into my art jewelry.

All of my jewelry is designed and handmade by me, not using any commercial molds or production methods. I use various wires and beads, including 14Kt gold, Sterling Silver, copper, fused glass and semi-precious stones. Found objects are a very distinct and complementary addition to many pieces. All these processes impart a very unique personality to each piece. I also use the semi-precious stones to string and bead strikingly gorgeous one-of-a-kind jewelry.

Through the years I was privileged to receive a number of honors and awards. Of course, the highlight of those was in 2002 when I was chosen to create a handmade ornament for the White House Christmas tree. The First Lady, Laura Bush, asked the artists from each state to focus on a bird from their state and create an

ornament. I chose an American Kestrel, painted on leather. It remains in the White House collection. I've also received 4 Best of Show awards, 2 for painting and 2 for jewelry.

I hope you enjoy my display in the Heyworth Public Library. Both Steve and I would like to thank Beth Porter for allowing us this opportunity.