

ARROWMONT

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS

Medium: Metals

Instructor: Ashley Gilreath

Dates: September 27 – October 2, 2026

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This workshop introduces students to champlevé, a specialized enameling process where artists inlay and fire enamels into recessed areas of a metal surface. Students of all skill levels can begin with the saw and solder champlevé method, first piercing a design into metal with a jeweler's saw and then soldering it onto a secondary metal background. This creates a field of recessed cells, which students will fill with fundamental champlevé processes, including depletion gilding, metallic foil application, wet packing, and kiln firing. Students will also learn how to use color theory, layering, and blending of the enamel to create the illusion of depth in their work. This class is for makers who wish to cultivate skills in both metalsmithing and enameling techniques simultaneously.

WHAT TO BRING

- Pencil/Pen
- Extra Fine Tip Black Sharpie
- Closed-toe shoes
- Apron
- Hair tie or Bandana
- Sketchbook/notebook for taking notes and drawing
- Reusable Water bottle (closed lid drinks in studio only)
- 1-2 Terry cloth hand towel
- Set of plastic screw top bead containers, for washing and storing enamels
Can purchase at Michael's craft store or Amazon, for example:
<https://www.michaels.com/product/12-jar-bead-organizer-by-bead-landing-10443332>
- 3" x 2" sheet of 18g sterling silver
(If necessary, you can purchase a 2"x 2" if that is financially more achievable, which would be completely understandable as the price of silver is very high these days. All it means is that you will make a smaller object, or a couple of small objects instead of one large one.)
- 3" x 2" sheet of 22g sterling silver
(If necessary, you can purchase a 2"x 2" if that is financially more achievable, which would be completely understandable as the price of silver is very high these days. All it means is that you will make a smaller object, or a couple of small objects instead of one large one.)
- Particulate Dust Mask, N95 or KN95 ---WITHOUT a plastic filter on the front)
- (particles and dust in studio are harmful to breathe during specific tool usage)
- Very fine tip paintbrush, 3/0 size, preferably sable brush
- Paint palette, either plastic or ceramic, can purchase from Michael's or Amazon

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- Fine/sharp nail scissor or embroidery scissor, beauty supply section of most stores, or a craft store sewing section, can purchase from Amazon as well
- (we will be cutting metal, so don't use your nice sewing scissors!)
- Any tools or leftover materials from previous metalsmithing /jewelry workshops
- (especially any sterling silver sheet, wire, chain, or findings you may wish to use)
- Students should feel free to bring any source materials that are aesthetically pleasing or have a personal significance: for example specimens from the natural environment near their homes, small heirloom pieces, old postcards, fabric, wooden objects, etc. and together we will use these elements as a starting point for idea generation and creating your compositions within a wearable object. *If you don't feel comfortable bringing an item (maybe it is too delicate to travel with) feel free to take some high quality photos instead.

MATERIALS FEES | **\$80.00-\$120.00**

Fees are assessed on an individual class basis and may vary from class to class depending on the amount of materials used and the number of students in the class, this keeps your out-of-pocket costs lower than a typical flat fee. Fees include all provided studio materials as assigned by the Instructor. Material fees are to be paid in the Supply Store no later than midday on the last day of workshop instruction.

Please be advised that the above course description and materials list has been written and approved by the instructor.

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Instructor Contact
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