

Sawing Circle Recap for August 2, 2022

Hi All,

Thanks to everyone for another great gathering! It was wonderful to see and meet some people who have not attended lately.

Miranda started us out with a great presentation on Argentium Silver, a malleable, fusible, tarnish-resistant silver alloy. She also shared a video of herself fusing Argentium granules onto a sheet. (She is currently editing the video so it can be emailed, and I will send it out when she is done.) Her tips included that you shouldn't move and quench Argentium while it is red hot, since it is too fragile. And she pointed out that she heats Argentium on a flat, smooth surface rather than on a screen because the metal will slump and take on the impression of the screen. Here she is with a piece she made:



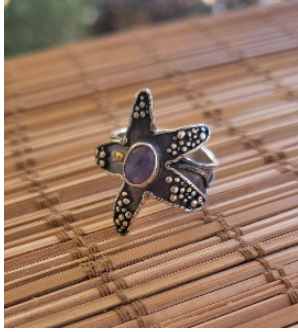
Thanks for all the information, Miranda!

Nancy showed us her beautiful fused Argentium chain:



Michelle provided additional information about working with Argentium, including creating a ramp so that granules will roll off the soldering block into a bowl of water. She also finds acetylene to be too dirty for Argentium and prefers oxy propane.

Carmen has water cast Argentium, and Jan showed us her Argentium rings with granulation:



Dale mentioned heat hardening Argentium in an oven. If you would like to learn more about all things Argentium, Miranda gave us a great article by Cynthia Eid. I will attach it here for those of you not on my last email.

Charlotte recommended Charles Codina's *The Complete Book of Jewelry Making*; in it, he suggests using jump rings when granulating, since they are of uniform size.

Others shared pieces they are working on. Michelle showed us a piece incorporating dendritic agate, and Yoko talked about her hinged mokume locket, show here:



Charlotte provided a sneak preview of the amazing pendant she made for our next challenge and gave me permission to share it here:



It's so inspiring to see people's work at our meetings!

Anne, always an inspiration, shared with us a challenge she is facing with a custom ring. It was very informative to see a problem being worked out in real time. (And nice to know someone else has solder blobs!)



Finally, Charlotte raised the issue of people wanting to take pictures of work in the gallery she is in, something many of us have experienced. The concern, of course, is that someone else will try to copy the design or that a quick amateur snapshot will not fairly represent the piece if it is shared. The consensus was that it's perfectly acceptable (if sometimes hard) to say no if the request makes you in any way uncomfortable.

CHALLENGE FOR OUR NEXT MEETING (August 16th):

Celebrate late summer by making a beach/ocean themed piece. If you can, create an interesting edge. Extra credit: incorporate sea glass or something organic. (Teaser from Carmen: melted aluminum foil!)

Be well, everyone. See you on the 16th.

Dusky

