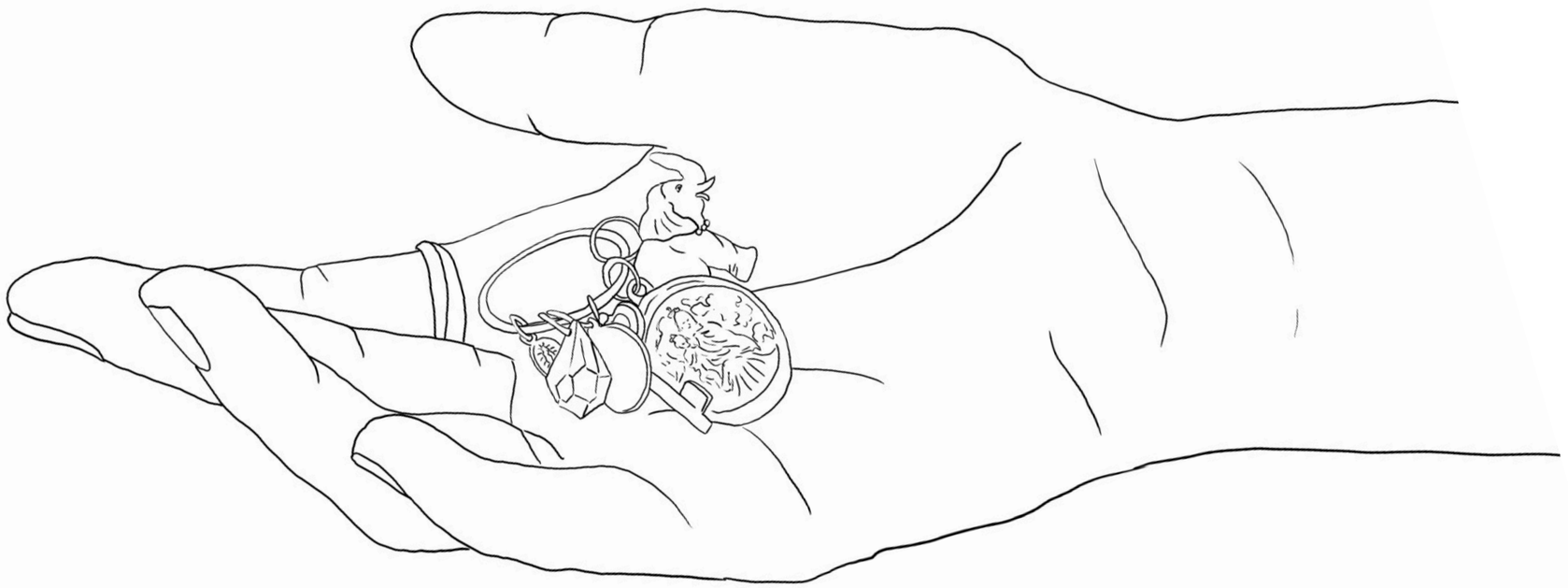
Summer Jewelry Workshops - July 2025



Charm bracelet: Basic Jewelry Techniques to Create Your Own Set of Amulets

Self-portrait: Cold Connections for Jewelry Making

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- These workshops are open to both beginners and advanced students.
- Both courses explore basic techniques that can be developed with more complexity depending on the students' level.
- The goal is to share the craft of jewelry-making, mixing hands-on skills with creative exercises allowing participants to create pieces that resonate within the world of contemporary jewelry as a form of artistic expression

Language: English / Spanish

Start date: Charm Bracelet: July 18th, 19th 20th
Self-Portrait: July 25th, 26th, 27th

3 classes - 18 hours (each workshop)

12 Students per group
Teachers: Iris Eichenberg / Jimena Rios

Materials included
(sterling silver jewelry piece and basic tools kit)

Charm bracelet:
Basic Jewelry Techniques to Create Your Own Set of Amulets

DAY 1

Talk: "A Brief History of Portable Amulets”
- Cross-cultural analysis of portable amulets and their historical significance.
- The evolution of the charm bracelet in mass-market and contemporary art jewelry.
- Symbolic motifs and their recurring meanings across civilizations.
- Creative exercises to design our own amulet: What do we want protection from? What kind of magical power would we like to attribute to our piece?

Lunch break

Technical Demonstration & Hands-On Practice
- Hydraulic Press Forming: Creating volume and three-dimensional metal elements through controlled pressure
- Basic Stone Setting: Introduction to bezel for securing cabochon
- Metal Sawing: Precision cutting and filing.
- Stamping & Surface Texturing: Application of decorative patterns using punches and rolling mill techniques
- Cold-Connection & Mixed Materials: Mechanical joining of a non-metallic element (wood, plastic, fabric) into a metal pendant without soldering

DAY 2

- Guided execution of student designs, applying the techniques demonstrated on the previous day.
- Personalized assistance throughout each stage of the process, beginning with the simplest techniques and progressively advancing.
- By the end of the session, students will have completed five charms, ready to be incorporated into a bracelet

Lunch break

Bracelet Construction: Chain Fabrication

- Handcrafted Chain & Clasp: The charms can be attached to a handmade chain, including a custom-fabricated clasp to maintain design cohesion throughout the piece.
- Fundamentals of Chain Construction: Step-by-step instructions on forming, preparing, jump rings.
- Beaded Bracelet Variation: For students who encounter difficulties with soldering or prefer an alternative technique.
- Knot-by-Knot Stringing: Classic pearl-threading technique, ensuring flexibility and durability without the need for soldering

DAY 3

- Chain Construction & Finishing: Assembly, soldering, and final shaping of the chain links.
- Charm Attachment: Secure integration of charms onto the bracelet using appropriate connection methods (soldered jump rings, cold connections techniques).

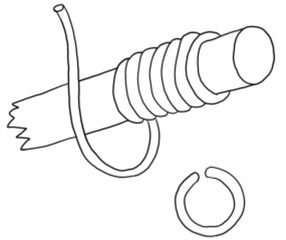
Lunch break

- Surface Finishing Techniques: Exploration of different finishing methods, including polishing, and matte/satin finishes.

By the end of the workshop, students will take home:
- A sterling silver bracelet with five charms, including one with a semi-precious stone.
- A basic jewelry kit to continue practicing at home.
- A workshop zine featuring techniques, pro tips, and everything needed to keep creating.

Self-portrait:

Cold Connections for Jewelry Making



DAY 1

Talk: "Lecture: Portraiture in Art and Jewelry”

- The Brooch as a Reflection of Identity in both historical and contemporary jewelry.
- Exploring Portraiture in Jewelry: How personal representation has been expressed through adornment over time.
- Material Exploration: Selecting materials based on their symbolic meaning and personal significance.

Lunch break

Demonstration: Cold Connection Techniques in Jewelry

- Overview of cold connections as an alternative to soldering.
- Riveting techniques: Standard rivets, tube rivets, and decorative rivets.
- Tabs and Folded Connections: Securing elements without adhesives or heat.
- Mechanical Fastenings: Screws, hinges, and other cold connection methods for movable or layered designs.

DAY 2

- Based on the materials brought by the students, we will analyze which type of rivet from the previous day is best suited for their piece.
- Jewelry Construction: Every design choice will be made with careful consideration to ensure it aligns with the piece's story and concept.

Lunch break

Attachment Methods

We will explore different ways to attach the jewelry to the body, including:

- Simple Pin
- Double-Needle Pin
- Hook Pin
- Demonstration: A hands-on demonstration of each attachment method will be provided so students can choose the best option for their design.

DAY 3

- Making the Brooch: Step-by-step guidance on constructing the brooch, from attaching the components to refining the final design.
- Surface Finishing: Techniques for polishing, or texturing, the brooch to enhance its aesthetic and conceptual meaning.

Lunch break

- Jewelry as a Personal Brand: Discussion on how jewelry can serve as a powerful symbol of personal identity, reflecting individual style, story, and values.
- Student Presentations: Each student will have the opportunity to present their piece, explaining the design choices and the concept behind their work.
- Peer Feedback: After each presentation, the group will offer constructive feedback and insights, encouraging dialogue and growth within the creative process.

By the end of the workshop, students will take home:

- A sterling silver with found material wearable brooch.
- A basic jewelry kit to continue practicing at home.
- A workshop zine featuring techniques, pro tips, and everything needed to keep creating.

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Teachers

Iris Eichenberg & jimena Rios

After graduating from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam in 1994, Iris Eichenberg worked as an independent artist, art educator, part-time curator, and co-organizer of art-related events. She began teaching at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in 1996, where she was Head of the Jewelry Department. Since 2006 she has been an Artist in Residence and Head of the Metalsmithing Department at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan, USA. Iris Eichenberg is regularly exhibiting, invited to lecture, act as visiting critic, and holds workshops at various art academies around the world.

Jimena Ríos lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She studied jewelry at the Escola Massana School of Art and Design in Barcelona, Spain and Alchimia Contemporary Jewelry School in Florence, Italy. In 2013 she founded Taller Eloi in Buenos Aires, to teach and organize workshops and exhibitions. She works as an educator, curator and editor.

Iris Eichenberg and Jimena Rios paths have crossed and become entwined through their common interest in ex-votos. Together they have organized the Hand medal project.

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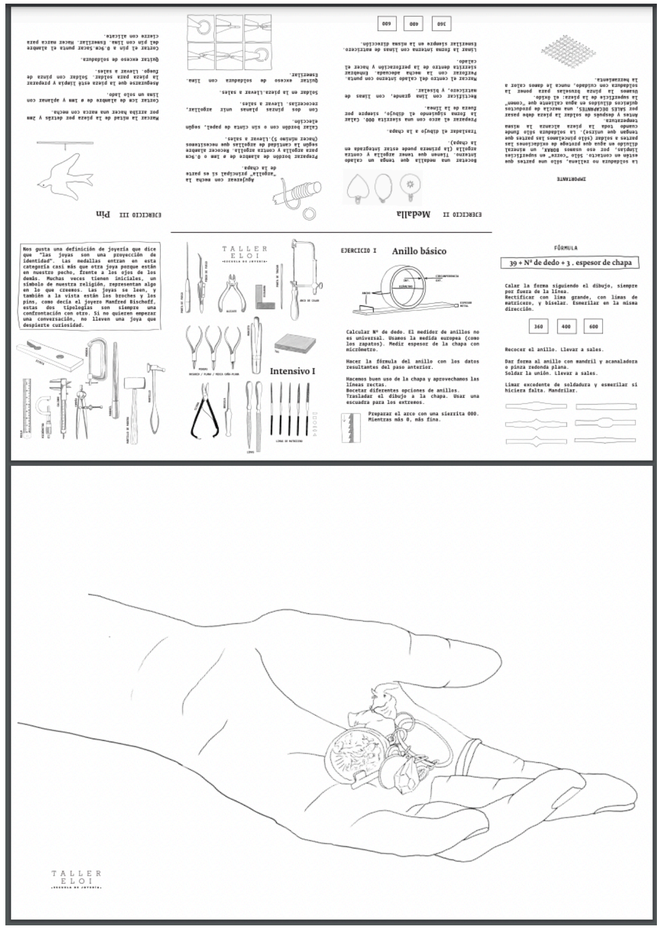

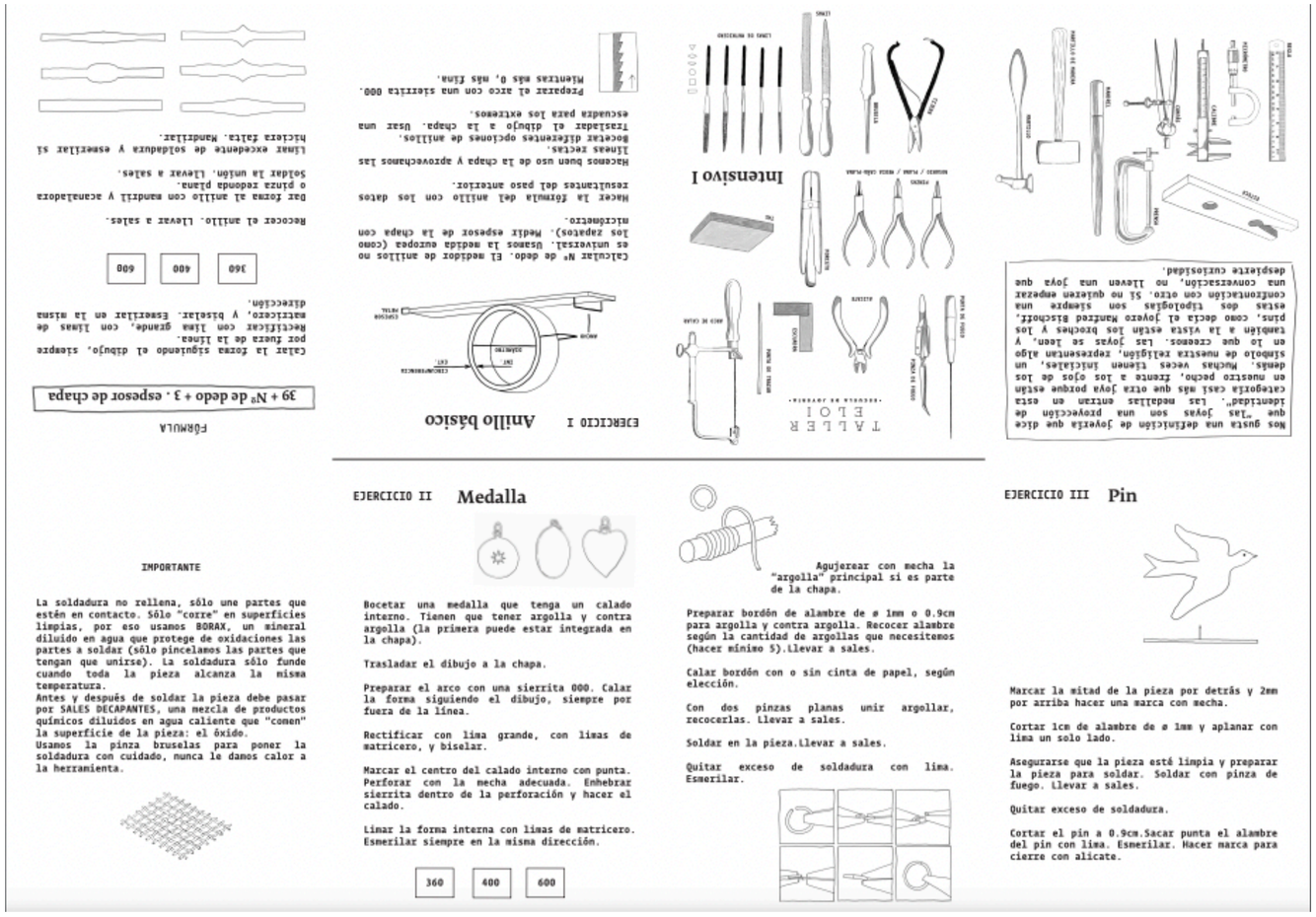

Fanzine example

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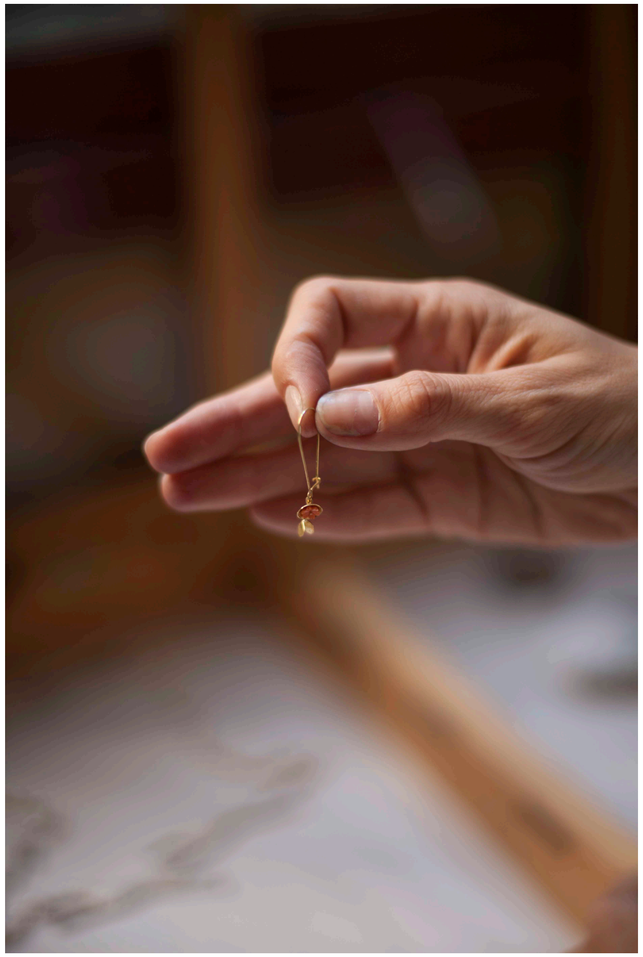

Previous workshops