

Lisa & Scott Cylinder Project and Artist Statements

BRIEF BIO

We have been partners and full-time makers for the past 38 years, having graduated from Tyler School of Art, Temple University in Philadelphia in 1985 and 1986, respectively. Since then, we have lived and worked in rural Pennsylvania and more recently, in Maine. Our creation of One-Of-A-Kind sculptural jewelry pieces and objects began in 1998.

Our work is informed by 20th Century culture and materials, reflecting the era in which we were raised and trained. We are drawn to manufactured objects from this period for their quality, materials, and craftsmanship. These "found parts," when removed from their original context, are meticulously manipulated and integrated into our creations. We continuously seek inspiration from Fine Art, Film, Nature, and Decorative Arts, preferring traditional hand craftsmanship over modern technology.

We have consistently engaged in diverse styles and materials, without feeling obligated or confined to any one genre. The constant theme in our work is a desire to explore, employ, and manipulate various materials. Our work continues to evolve as we examine the intricate interaction between materials, concepts, and the surrounding world.

STATEMENTS ARRANGED WITH REFERENCE TO THE WORKS....

Regarding GRINDER, VIBE, & SIREN.....

(JUNE 2015) "BLINDING THE CYCLOPS" has been a new chapter in our artistic Odyssey. After 27 years of making representational work, we have charted a new course away from our comfort zone. Representation had become our Cyclops, and in order to free ourselves we needed to escape from our captor. This action has enabled us to grow, change, and challenge ourselves as artists and problem solvers in a tangential manner.

Although our fascination with found objects (especially musical instruments) continues, their use as materials has become further abstracted. Their deconstruction has been pushed farther and the outcome is purposefully less representational. We have reinvented our working methodology as well as our subject matter. This giant step has enabled us to develop a new vocabulary referencing Design and Technologies of the 20th Century, the time in which our aesthetics as makers were formed.

Blinking The Cyclops represents an epic creative adventure. Wielding the same techniques and materials from our past works, we have challenged ourselves to create a fresh group of wearable objects that subvert what had become familiar. We continue to change and challenge ourselves in our quest to create intriguing, well-crafted hand made objects in the 21st Century.

Regarding CROONER, HARBINGER, & PRIMA DONNA...

"VOCALISTS" is a new series comprised of 8 figurative brooches, all singers in stage set shadow boxes, drawing attention to people's voices. At this very moment in time we feel that having a voice is so very important! We have given each an operatic or theatrical title, relating them to the stage, yet also relating them to an emotion or action. Each is a mixed media brooch utilizing at least one element from a recycled /retired vintage musical instrument incorporated into a face. Further, each key or lever is cleverly altered and combined with our fabrications in metal, epoxy resin, and wood, which are silver soldered, fitted, and cold connected. Each is carefully considered and crafted employing many different techniques and finished in a myriad of colored patinas and applied paints and powders. Placing each vocalist in a shadowbox stage setting that is appropriate to their voice makes these not only wonderful brooches, they are excellent art objects and all are truly one of a kind.

Regarding MINOTAUR, ZEPHYRUS, TUFTED GRAZER, & CERBERUS...

(JUNE 2025) CALLIOPE - The concept for this body of work is twofold; First, it references the Muse of Epic Poetry and Music with a nod to Greek Mythology. Second, it is a reference to the musical instrument used in both the circus and the carousel, an air powered pipe organ that is familiar in both arenas. As we approached this work, it was with an eye towards these sources. The basis for most of the pieces are vintage brass wind parts from trumpets, French horns and trombones, creating a specific yet small menu for us to choose from in the creation of this body of work.

"The founding of the Modern Circus was a result of the collapse of the Roman Empire" reads the plaque at the beginning of the Ringling Brothers Circus Museum, a profound and fraught idea to us. That environment was created from the ashes of a fallen empire, where nomadic and age-old Arts could be carried on not in a specific place, but everywhere, as people's lives were thrown asunder. We

have found this metaphor very meaningful, especially today, as we have recently witnessed the end of the golden age of the Circus in America and, what we believe to be the beginning of the end of the American Empire.

The pieces themselves are an homage to the fantastical creatures that run through mythology, the Circus and carousel animals, the latter two being in our wheelhouse, us having a penchant for things from the 20th Century, including the found parts we harvest for our works. The imagery is joyous in its interpretations, but also there is an underlying menace, as the creatures depicted are either threatening or subjugated by man. Both mythology and the circus pose the idea of either Gods helping or hindering humans or humans being kind and cruel to the captive animals.

The concept is multi-level and we did not always adhere strictly to that idea but rather played loosely with the rich imagery and ideas that were generated by this concept. Past references and homage have always played a strong role in what we create, and here it is no different. Calder and Picasso foremost, but also Dumbo, Fellini and the many rich circus Films of the past, Ray Bradbury's "Something Wicked This Way Comes", and the images that are conjured and depicted in ancient Greek Art and stories. The appeal and draw to these resources has always been in our periphery, and with "Calliope" we have tried to create and bundle these into a coherent, metaphorical and playful whole.

Regarding PINEVIEW, BREAKING WAVE, POSTCARD TO HOMER, & POSTCARD TO HARTLEY...

(JULY 2021) SURF & TURF: POSTCARDS FROM MAINE - In the course of exploring our beautiful Maine environment, we have continually been struck by the unique combination of woodlands and coastline. We began cataloguing natural materials from both land and sea, and from these materials came the inspiration for Surf and Turf: two separate jewelry collections portraying, respectively, the forest and the shore. As we combined, dissected, and manipulated these organic components, however, we realized that many of these pieces include a part of the other - the forest reaching out into the ocean; the waves lapping up against the trees. The dichotomy of this connection is what we see around us and also within ourselves. The additional incorporation of vintage Maine postcards adds a sentimental aspect to this body of work that is both familiar and reflective.

Using our combined skillsets, we have hand fabricated these jewelry works in mixed metals, cast and carved epoxy resins, our collected natural materials, and select portions of vintage postcards. Merging these varied materials and our own techniques, we pay homage to this place we call home with "SURF & TURF: POSTCARDS FROM MAINE."

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LISA & SCOTT CYLINDER RESUME

SUMMARY

Innovative educators since 1988, working as instructors and visiting artists in Maine, Pennsylvania, New York, North Carolina and Ireland.

Award-winning jewelers with works exhibited at prestigious galleries, museums and collections all across the United States since 1998.

Co-owners of prominent studio jewelry design company since 1988.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - EDUCATORS

LISA AND SCOTT:

2020-26 the Wedge Brunswick, ME Instructors
2017-18 Philadelphia Museum of Art Philadelphia, PA Workshop Leaders
2015 East Carolina University Greenville, NC Visiting Artists
2014 Tyler School of Art Philadelphia, PA Visiting Artists
2013 Kutztown University Kutztown, PA Visiting Artists
2010 N. Carolina Society of Goldsmiths Raleigh, NC Workshop Instructors: "Found and Lost"
2004 Tyler School of Art Philadelphia, PA Visiting Artists
2000 National College of Art & Design Dublin, Ireland Visiting Artists
2000 Grennan Mill Craft School Thomastown, Ireland Visiting Artists
2000 Kutztown University Kutztown, PA Visiting Artists
1997 Kutztown University Kutztown, PA Visiting Artists
1991 Tyler School of Art Philadelphia, PA Visiting Artists

SCOTT:

2014 Penn State University - Lehigh Valley Saucon Valley, PA Adjunct Sculpture Instructor
2008 Kutztown University Kutztown, PA Summer Institute Instructor
1997 Kutztown University Kutztown, PA Hydraulic Press Workshop
1990-92 Baum School of Art Allentown, PA Adv. Jewelry & Metalsmithing Instructor
1989 Cedar Crest College Allentown, PA Jewelry & Metalsmithing Instructor
1988 SUNY New Paltz New Paltz, NY Basic Jewelry & Metalsmithing Instructor

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - STUDIO JEWELERS

1988-present Chickenscratch Jewelry Brunswick, ME Co-owners, Studio Jewelry Co.

A sophisticated, intelligent and whimsical limited production line of studio multiples designed and created by the co-owners using base metals, sheet and wire that is hand cut and manipulated. Pieces incorporate found objects, silver and gold leaf accents, and mica powders, utilizing a unique patination process developed for the line, which is based on narrative themes.

Works are sold in galleries, fine stores, museum gift shops and trade and retail shows.

1998- present Lisa and Scott Cylinder One-of-a-Kind Studio Art Jewelry Brunswick, ME
Co-owners, Studio Jewelry Company

One-of-a-kind, highly collected art jewelry pieces incorporating found objects and epoxy resins in metalwork.

Pieces are owned, displayed and sold by prominent collectors, galleries, and at selected retail shows

EDUCATION

LISA: 1985 B.F.A. Tyler School of Art, Temple University Philadelphia, PA, Jewelry & Metalsmithing

SCOTT: 1988 M.F.A. State University of New York, College at New Paltz, New Paltz, NY Metals

1986 B.F.A. Tyler School of Art, Temple University Philadelphia, PA, Jewelry & Metalsmithing

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2025 "Calliope" Duo Exhibition Gravers Lane Gallery Philadelphia, PA

2023 "Tarot" Group Exhibition La Joaillerie par Mazlo Paris, France

2019 "Adore/Adorn" The Elsie Michie Jewelry Collection LSU Art Museum Baton Rouge, LA

2018 "Sign Of The Times" Group Exhibition La Joaillerie par Mazlo Paris, France

2017 "Love, Life & Death" Group Exhibition - Parcours Bijoux La Joaillerie par Mazlo Paris, France

2017 "Sacre Outils" (Sacred Tools) - Paris Design Week La Joaillerie par Mazlo Paris, France

2016 "Double Visions" Group Exhibition Art Complex Museum Duxbury, MA

2015 "Blinding The Cyclops" Duo Exhibition Velvet da Vinci Gallery San Francisco, CA

2014 "Signs of Life" Exhibition Facere Jewelry Art Gallery Seattle, WA

2013 "Transformations" Raphael Founders Prize Exhibition

University of Arkansas Little Rock Gallery Little Rock, AR

Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum Wausau, WI

"Modern Makers" 21st Century Craft in Berks & Lehigh Counties Kutztown University- Marlin
& Regina Miller Gallery Kutztown, PA

2012 "Transformations" Raphael Founders Prize Exhibition Society for Contemporary Crafts
Pittsburgh, PA

Sculptural Objects, Functional Art (SOFA) Chicago Snyderman/Works Gallery Philadelphia, PA

2011 "From Minimal To Bling" Exhibition Survey of Contemporary Studio Jewelry Society of Arts &
Crafts Boston, MA

Sculptural Objects, Functional Art (SOFA) Chicago Snyderman/The Works Gallery Philadelphia, PA

2010 "Transpositions" Duo Exhibition Velvet da Vinci Gallery San Francisco, CA

"Insects and Invaders in RAM's Collection" Racine Art Museum Racine, WI

COLLECTIONS

Racine Art Museum Racine, WI

Museum of Contemporary Arts & Design New York, NY

Gregg Museum of Art & Design Raleigh, NC

CERF "Bird in Hand" Miniature Collection Montpelier, VT

AWARDS

2021 Maine Arts Commission Projects Grants (2) Augusta, ME

2015 Award of Excellence Memorial Art Gallery Craft Show Rochester, NY

2015 Best In Jewelry Smithsonian Craft2Wear Washington, DC

2012 Repurposed Materials Award Smithsonian Craft Show Washington, DC

2005 & 2007 Fellowship for Crafts Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Harrisburg, PA

2003 Collectors Award Crafts America West Chester, NY

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the Cylinders and their beautiful work....