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Exploring Hollowware Forms

Dear Workshop Participants,

I hope this finds you well and looking forward to our upcoming workshop. During the week we will explore a variety of hollowware forms including vessels – functional and non-functional, box construction and sculptural forms. The student will design and create an individual piece using a variety of techniques. I thought I would share some thoughts concerning preparation for the workshop during the first week of April.

- **Maximise the Making:** To maximise your time making a piece in the workshop please bring a 3-D paper/card prototype or drawing of a hollowware concept you would like to construct. Prototypes and drawings can be altered during our tutoring session and throughout the week. Having a concept prepared will maximise your potential for completing the piece during the workshop.
- **Keep it Simple!** I would advise you to keep it simple if this is your first time working in hollowware construction. We will go through the process of making a hollowware form including the raising process, lap joints, cutting, scoring, folding, soldering, lid construction, embellishment etc. Depending on your design concept you will use some of the above techniques.
- **Hidden Hinge Workshop:** If you are following on from our two-day hidden hinge workshop you will want to design a hollowware form or box construction that works with your hinging.
- **Materials:** If you are not using sterling silver, I would advise red brass/gilding metal as it does not soften to the same extent as copper when soldered. It will hold its shape after multiple soldering's. 18 gauge sheet metal is good for constructed pieces. Once you have your paper prototype/drawing made you can estimate the material needed for the project. Most projects can be accomplished with a 12 inch x 12 inch sheet of metal. If you are interested in raising a hollowware form in which there are no soldered parts you can use 18 gauge copper sheet.
- **Soldering:** Medium and Easy wire solder. I use Handy Flux for all my soldering as it can take the high heat required to solder a large piece without breaking down. Available at Rio Grande.
- **Tools:** Bring your hand tools and any tools you feel will help you with your project. Some students may have metalsmithing tools/stakes that will be useful during the making process.

The class will start with a PowerPoint presentation and a discussion concerning the design concepts you have brought to the class. We will look at the process of hollowware construction for each individual students concept and I will answer any questions you may have concerning construction techniques. We will then go straight into making a piece. I'm looking forward to meeting you all and having some fun.

All the best,

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