

LEAH HELMRICH

Jewelry Designer

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EXPERIENCE

Artisan Manager

Creating Unkamen

📅 June 2007 – May 2017

📍 Fulton, MO

- Trained and managed a team of 4-6 other handmade artisans.
- Created 100+ PDF/Video tutorials for assorted chainmaille and beaded jewelry.
- Designed and fabricated 50+ jewelry pieces for sale as kits.
- Managed all anodizing, oxidizing, and engraving processes.
- Appeared on JTV's Jewel School representing Creating Unkamen.
- Published multiple tutorials in Interweave magazine publications.
- Wrote weekly, bi-weekly, and/or monthly blog posts and newsletters for instruction, promotion, and inspiration.
- Assisted extensively in customer service and consultation.

PROJECTS

Angular Brass Linkage

Statement Necklace

- I started with a basic geometric shape and designed a number of different sized and shaped link patterns. Half the links would be cut to be open, and the others would be solid, so I could connect them together.
- Using blank adhesive labels, I transferred the link designs onto 20 gauge sheet brass in preparation for piercing and sawing.
- After all the pieces were cut out and filed smooth, I slotted them together and soldered the cuts of the open links, creating a solid chain. The last step was to solder a few links for the chain of the toggle clasp and to give the piece an interesting patina.

Layered Craters

Finger Ring

- Using three strips of wire in copper, bronze, and brass, I made three nesting rings, each one a little bigger and a little wider than the one inside it. The two outer rings had holes in a variety of sizes drilled through them so you could see the layers of metal underneath.
- To form the ring, I carefully nested all the rings and then used a dapping block to round the outside edges of the largest ring, flipping it over frequently to create an even dome, trapping the two inner bands inside.

PUBLICATIONS

- Helmrich, Leah (2016a). "Acute Angle Necklace". In: *Beading Daily* (Summer 2016).
- – (2016b). "Dipped and Dangly Earrings". In: *Jewelry Stringing* (Spring 2016).
- – (2012). "Blossoming Lotus Necklace". In: *Step by Step Wire Jewelry* (The Best Of), Cover and 112–115.

MY LIFE PHILOSOPHY

"Loving what you do is not required, but doing what you love is."

MOST PROUD OF



Appeared on JTV's Jewel School

I made two different trips to the Knoxville, TN headquarters of JTV. The main goal of the trip was to film a live broadcast to promote the kits and products that Creating Unkamen was wholesaling with Jewel School, as well as to tape some tutorial footage for the pieces. The first appearance was May 30th and 31st, 2012, and a second trip and appearance was made August 22nd.



Cover Feature on "Step By Step Wire"

I created a square wire and beaded necklace and submitted it to Interweave publications for a standard tutorial article. The editors liked it so much, they decided to include it in their "Best Of" special edition and feature it on the cover!

STRENGTHS

Advanced Chainmaille

Anodizing

Basic Silversmithing

Beading

Cold Connections

Sawcutting

Soldering

Wirewrapping

EDUCATION

Working with Reactive Metals

Bill Seeley

Silversmithing I, II, and III

William Holland School Of Lapidary

Advanced Wire Wrapping

William Holland School Of Lapidary

Casting for Beginners

William Holland School Of Lapidary

Mixed Media - Push the Limits

William Holland School Of Lapidary

Mastering the Jeweler's Saw

Thomas Mann