






ARTIST INFORMATION SHEET

Artist	Catherine Jo Morgan
<p>Philosophy</p> 	<p>I make art for aliveness – to experience full, vibrant aliveness myself, and to embody this energy of aliveness into the artwork. Vessel or bowl forms are ideal for this, since bowls are intrinsically about holding and releasing. So my sculptures grow around vessel forms. I use iron because nothing looks more dead to start with. Then when I can show the life in the iron – that dance of electrons inside, that sacred fire – then that energy of aliveness becomes more available in the world.</p>
Style	Vessel of Energy™ Sculptures - Abstract expressionist sculptures centered on vessel forms – using iron, paper, or mixed media.
<p>Technique</p>    	<p>I actually use a similar process in making sculpture, as I use in designing and leading workshops with people. My aim is to facilitate a process that's in harmony with the one Process.</p> <p>So I set myself aside and let what wants to happen flow through me. If I design, I design well and then let the design go. There's always a point in a workshop and in a sculpture at which there's a crucial choice: keep control so it will "turn out right" or open it up to the winds of the Holy Spirit (and hold on for the ride!)</p> <p>With the bowls, I have a sense that the Bowls – a body of work – already exist on some other plane, and want me to make them. So I work to make each bowl as it wants to be made. I like to believe that the energy of each bowl is needed by someone at the time I'm led to make it.</p> <p>Sometimes sculptures are formed and colored spontaneously from start to finish. Other times, the process starts with music, dance, and painting. It then progresses through full scale sketches and small maquettes before the sculpture is begun.</p> <p>I use traditional and modern blacksmithing techniques to forge iron, cut it with an oxy-acetylene torch, gas or MIG weld it. I love iron and look for "found pieces" in scrap yards too.</p> <p>I use Unryu "Cloud Dragon" paper as well as archival watercolor paper. The paper is torn, cut, painted, often molded with an archival paper mache process. Copper mesh is cut, bent, sewn into shape with copper wire. Often gemstones spheres and beads are added, along with crystal and metal beads, soft wires and cords, and copper rods. No material or process is excluded if the piece seems to want it.</p>
Background	Early career in social psychology, as consultant leading workshops in personal growth and conflict resolution. Second career as artist blacksmith led to focus on sculptures centered on vessel forms. Now incorporates paper, copper mesh and other materials with iron to make vessel sculptures.
Publications	"The Contemporary Blacksmith," Dona Meilach, Schiffer Press, 2000, pp. 152-3 – three iron vessels in full color.
Venues	Galleries & website – prices the same at both.
Prices	Vessels \$180 to \$380; smaller gift items less