

Perspective

On Being an Artist & Business Owner



By Lissa Flemming

I made the leap from home studio to a storefront studio in May of 2016, and I've never looked back. Mostly because there is rarely a moment to do so! Ever since I created my first

piece of jewelry after collecting limpet shells from a secluded beach in Baja, the gallery and working studio was on my radar without me even knowing it. As I had a biology degree, I was doing marine mammal research in those days.

The evolution of becoming a jeweler involved learning new techniques and skills, continuing my education with workshops anywhere I could/can find them and trial and error (i.e. melting a lot of metal). It also came from adventures and travels; tears I've shed; milestones I've celebrated; and grieving the loss of my mom. My travels and my experiences are the reason I am where I am. I continue to evolve. It is reflected in my attitude and my art.

When I'm not creating, I wear all the hats of self-employment: toilet cleaner, garbage woman, accountant, marketing person, mentor to shop help, webmaster, creative master mind (!)...the list goes on. It's a lot of hard work to make it happen and I don't get to go home at 5 p.m. every day. Well, I might physically go home but then spend hours working on invoices, accounting, website, etc. I wouldn't have it any other way.

I opened on May 7, Mother's Day 2016. I chose that date to honor my mom whose unexpected death prevented her from seeing my gallery come to fruition. It wasn't even an idea when she died. She continues to guide and inspire me in my daily work and life—and I believe is the reason the gallery is so warm and inviting. She taught me so much about creating a welcoming space, kindness, and staying true to myself. She lives on through me, her true friends, my sister, niece, nephew, birds, flowers, and my jewelry.

Advice: Write your own story. Be ready to work HARD and A LOT. Strap on your wings and JUMP. Be ready to FLY with some learning lows along the way. Be yourself. Tell your story. Your story will change. There is a plan and an idea...until it changes. Drink top, top shelf tequila or lemonade. Love what you do. When you love what you do, it shows in your work.



Leland
Blue Slag



Working with Lake Superior Stones

By Lissa Flemming

I've collected Lake Superior stones for as long as I can remember. You can find containers of raw stones, such as basalt, agates, or even beach glass in my gallery. Showcasing native Lake Superior stones by bezel setting them is my favorite way to make jewelry. I have drawers of Lake Superior Agate, Mohawkite and Greenstone cabochons (cabs). Using these stones and others from around the world, I manipulate sterling silver, gold, white gold, and copper sheet metal to help me tell stories without using words. It is my hope that the work reflects my love and connection to water, waves, wind, and the greater natural world.

My favorites with which to work:

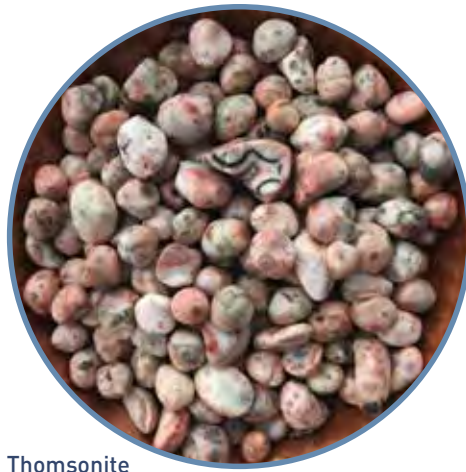
Leland Blue Slag

This unique "gem" is a byproduct of the short-lived days of smelting iron ore in Northwest Lower Michigan (c. 1875-1900). The ore from the Upper Peninsula's Mesabi iron range arrived in Leelanau County by schooner. A charcoal made from beech and maple hardwoods plus a local limestone flux

(Above) Necklace recently designed and made by Lissa Flemming. Leland slag glass. Cast Bayfield birch branches.



Greenstone



Thomsonite



Mohawkite

were used to refine the ore; the slag byproduct was considered waste and dumped into Lake Michigan. This material ranges in color from black to green, to blue and purple, with the various shades of water-like blues being the most prized and rare. Under two percent of the slag created was blue, depending on environmental factors.

Greenstone

The “official state gem” of Michigan. It is a variety of the mineral pumpellyite with a turtleback pattern and occurs as amygdaloid structures and fracture fillings in basalt. When water and wave action wear away the basalt, greenstone beach pebbles and granules remain in loose sediments. Although it is a rare mineral, it is found in the Keweenaw Peninsula of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Isle Royale in the northern part of Lake Superior. *Properties: Enhances harmony and cooperation in relationships as well as personal healing.*

Thomsonite

A rare gemstone found on the north shore of Lake Superior. It is a zeolite that forms eye-shaped patterns due to its radiating formation and is composed of hydrous silicate with aluminum, sodium, and calcium. It is commonly found as pink and white pebbles seldom larger than an inch in diameter in a basalt matrix. Less common are the greens and sometimes purple or blues. *Properties: Aids clarity of thought.*

Mohawkite

Named after the original locality, the Mohawk Mine, Mohawkite is extremely rare and occurs only in the Mohawk-Ahmeek area of Keweenaw County, Michigan. With a hardness between 3 and 3.5, Mohawkite is mainly a copper-arsenic compound containing cobalt, silver, nickel, and iron. *Properties: The combined energies of the minerals which compose Mohawkite bring stability, balance, and openness to one’s being.*



Lake Superior Agate

Lake Superior Agate

Agates are a gemstone with a hardness of 7; harder than Basalt or Rhyolite. Beautiful banding, varied patterns, and eye-catching colors unique to each agate are created by quartz with small amounts of different elements. Red bands are the result of the rusting of iron within the agate when exposed to oxygen. These gemstones can be found on many Lake Superior beaches throughout the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. *Properties: Good for security, strength, to raise energy, and to enhance personal courage and calming.*

Lissa Flemming is a jewelry artist and owner of Silverwaves Jewelry in Bayfield. <https://www.silverwaves.net>

A Jewelry Studio at Wild Rice Retreat

By *Lissa Flemming*

I approached Wild Rice Retreat in the spring of 2018 with an idea that I hoped would bring more jewelry arts to the area. I wanted it to be an inviting and supportive place to create and learn. The dedicated jewelry studio is perfect for creating work and teaching students of all levels the various elements of working with metal and stones. I taught the first workshop in May 2018 and just finished my Big Ring Bling workshop this past March.

This amazing jewelry space provides a wonderful facility for classes, workshops, retreats, demonstrations,

and jewelry labs. Precious Metal Clay (PMC), soldering, forging, beading, and designing are just a few of the jewelry-focused topics that will be taught by local and national instructors. So far the space seems to be a great success and we are excited for the future.

Here's what is coming up in the new space at Wild Rice Retreat:



Donalee Kennedy: Bodacious Bangles Workshop

June 22-23. Create textured bangle bracelet in two-day metalsmithing retreat. (Assisted by Lissa Flemming)



Richard Salley: Moving Forward—A Jewelry Making Series

October 17-20. Create a Secret Compartment Pendant, a ring or pendant with Stacked Stone embellishment, and an Adjustable Hinged Bracelet.

In October 2020, Michael Sturlin will teach a workshop on Forged Bracelets. Other instructors in the works: Robyn Cornelius and Robert Lopez. And this is just the beginning! ☺

www.wildriceretreat.com



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'Making Mindful Marks'

The August exhibit at the Washburn Cultural Center will be "Making Mindful Marks: Cloudscapes, Calligraphy, and Carving," work by Peter Fraterdeus. Large-scale photo-panoramic cloudscapes will hang suspended along with calligraphic flags on Japanese washi and other papers. Letters carved in wood and stone will provide the landscape below.

Fraterdeus will demonstrate large scale brush Shodo (Zen Calligraphy) at the gallery on Thursday, August 15; western calligraphy with quill and reed pens on Thursday, August 22; and letter carving in stone and wood on Thursday, August 29. All demonstrations are 4-6:30 p.m.

Peter's studies have included an NEA Crafts Apprenticeship (1981) in letter carving and calligraphy in Wales with Ieuan Rees, two summers at RIT with renowned calligrapher and type designer Hermann Zapf, and Zen Shodo (East Asian brush calligraphy) with Kazuaki Tanahashi in Berkeley. He has taught calligraphy, design, and letterpress printing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and numerous other venues in the US and Europe.

Peter and his wife Kate Miller are have recently moved full-time to Washburn from Galena, Illinois. ☺

Pottery Festival

By *Jonathan Walburg*

Labor day weekend's Saturday has become synonymous with Pottery Festival in downtown Washburn. For the past eight years, the Bayfield Peninsula Potters have been getting together to show the fruits of their hard labor and to add artistic excellence to our already wonderful area. Once a tour of studios, the festival has become a one-day, one-place event on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. This year it will be August 31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Area potters such as **Jill Lorenz, Pat Juett, Eli Wilson, Evan Hestekin, Eric Weaver, Deanna Schuppe, Leslie Falconer, Michael McKenna, Jonathan Walburg**, and more, will set up the Pottery Festival in **Wikdal Park** across the street from Karlyn's Gallery in downtown Washburn. It is a fun-filled event with pottery, music, and family fun. Come for the pottery, and stay to hang out with all the cool people.

High visibility and high traffic on Highway 13 have created a chance for local artists to meet visitors from all over the world as they travel to our beautiful Lake Superior shores.

Let's check out the fresh work of our local artists and support our colorful community. ☺