

Hopkins Center  
for the Arts  
at Dartmouth

# WOOD METAL CLAY

Student  
Workshops  
Newsletter

2019

## Keep Discovering

Greg Elder,  
Woodworking Shop Director



Students are flocking to the woodshop in record numbers, learning how to turn ideas into solid forms with the help of our exceptional staff. From absolute beginners, which almost all our students are, to those with broad experience, the empowerment and joyfulness encountered is truly transformative. Their view of the world changes.

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***The woodshop is truly a wonderful place to explore.***

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Some current projects include a 16-foot Greenland-style sea kayak built by Janice Chen '19, a beautiful birch serving tray made by Jonah Sternthal Th '19, a wonderful walnut and maple dining table made by Tolu Kehinde Geisel/Tuck '19 (shown at left), and many projects by Eitan Darwish '21, including the ash table you see above at right. We have also been offering numerous classes in bowl turning, and the chips have been flying as students learn lathe skills.

Last year 49 classes from 9 academic departments used the student workshops for instruction, classwork and special projects. In a recent example, engineering professor Ulrike Wegst and music professor Theodore Levin collaborated with the Thayer Machine Shop, Hop Woodshop and Jewelry Studio to teach COCO 20: Making Music, in which students designed and built original musical instruments.

It's so much fun for me to help students realize their ideas. They experience a wide range of discoveries, from creating a quick mock-up study to seriously refined and detailed furniture. The woodshop is truly a wonderful place to explore.

Top: Janice Kai Chen '19 with kayak, photo by Catherine Rocchi '19; middle: making the bonfire numbers—Katie Glance '23, Catherine Gorman '23 and Tonia Zakorchem '23; Eitan Darwish '21 with ash table, metal legs; bottom: Tolu Kehinde Geisel/Tuck '19 with walnut and maple table.



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# Finding Resolve

## Case Hathaway-Zepeda '09, Claflin Jewelry Studio Instructor

This fall, as I turned my compost pile, harvested our remaining kale, and put our vegetable garden “to sleep,” I reflected with awe on how much my life has changed since coming to New Hampshire 14 years ago as a member of Dartmouth’s class of 2009.

I was so proud when looking at the fruits of my labor. I’ve never done that level of homesteading before. Growing up in Los Angeles certainly didn’t prepare me for this way of living. It was my time in the Jewelry Studio that did.

As a place that encourages genuine learning in an open and supportive environment, the Workshops are truly a place of empowerment. This is where I learned to take risks, trust my judgment, ask for help, and fail along the way to success. Now, as an instructor at the studio, it is a joy to help students find their creativity and self-resolve.

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I recently had the privilege of guiding and witnessing a medical student (and future surgeon!) discover her courage, voice, and steadfastness through the creation of a simple yet elegant pair of earrings. Her eyes were alight with surprise and joy at her accomplishment.

Experiences like these inspire the students and me alike to continually try new things. To learn about the land. To pick up a torch for the first time. To go out of our comfort zones and achieve our dreams with whatever challenges come along the way. The Jewelry Studio is where we learn life lessons, on a small scale, for a large and changing world.



Above: Case Hathaway-Zepeda '09 and Nelly Mendoza-Mendoza '19  
Below: Case Hathaway-Zepeda '09, cast silver asparagus with 22k gold bail;  
Nelly Mendoza-Mendoza '19, 22k gold bee granulation pendant



# A Golden Year

## Nelly Mendoza-Mendoza '19, Claflin Jewelry Studio Instructor

The Donald Claflin Jewelry Studio at Dartmouth is a place of creativity, mentorship and resources. This is where I’ve met some of the most interesting students and my closest friends. Jewelry has allowed me to connect to hundreds, if not thousands of people, taught me to appreciate every detail and given me the confidence to excel and experiment with my creativity. The space I have had to grow as a creator and the people I’ve met at the studio drastically changed the way I perceive the world and myself. I am an artist and an agent of beauty and innovation. The studio is my favorite place on campus; the resources are unparalleled to anything else I have experienced. This year, I am working in the studio on a Post-Graduate Dartmouth Creative Fellowship on Ancient Greek Gold Granulation, continuing to develop my jewelry line and working in my new position as a teacher in the studio.



# Inspired by Visiting Artists

Jenny Swanson, Ceramics Studio Director



The Ceramics Studio is abuzz with classes and makers! The days are filled with enthusiastic students taking advantage of our terrific staff, both student and professional, who patiently break down complex techniques into teachable parts. It's a privilege to host well-known artists in our studio—both students and staff are inspired by their visits.

Last spring the Hood Museum invited renowned Native American ceramist Diego Romero to campus. Students were introduced to his work, described in *American Craft* journal as “political, humorous, timeless.” It was mesmerizing to watch him make a vessel in our studio, burnish a surface, and describe his career in ceramics.

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Zulu potter Clive Sithole, from Durban, South Africa, asks global questions about land through his imagery and traditional making techniques. His recent visit to the studio was a reminder that through the passageway of art and craft, we are exchanging information about heritage and cultural experience. Professor Hafiz Shabazz came to the demonstration with his popular Music 51: Oral Tradition Musicianship class to talk with Clive about the ceramic Udu drum, culture and tradition.

Master potter Miranda Thomas from Bridgewater, Vermont taught a wonderful brush workshop last spring and will return soon to teach carving and patterning. Last month, Ragamala, a South Indian dance troupe from Minneapolis, was in residence at the Hop; we helped them create a collaborative ceramics and painting installation with students and the Dartmouth community.

Top, left to right: Kira Householder '23 carving slip during Miranda Thomas workshop; mugs by Lily Hines '19; Jenny helps a student attach a handle; double spouted vessel by Ken Zhu '19.

Left, top to bottom: Visiting artist Diego Romero P'10 demonstrating in the studio; visiting artist Clive Sithole from South Africa talking about his work with Ty Fierce Metteba '20.

# Student Workshop Fellows



Berit DeGrandpre '20 and Janice Kai Chen '19



## Janice Kai Chen '19, Woodworking Fellow

I wandered into the woodworking shop almost four years ago with little experience and asked if I could build a 16-foot sea kayak. Over the next few years, I learned how to work a chisel (haven't quite got it down yet), steam and shape wood, and decipher the cryptic language of boat-building manuals. But even more than a chance to gain material skills, the woodshop is a place where learning stretches beyond the ten-week term and its looming deadlines, a place to make mistakes and imperfect things.

I was lucky to have discovered the woodworking shop early in my time at Dartmouth, and of course, I owe it to Janet, Greg, Dudley et al. for indulging a project that made me stick around for long enough to realize how special of a space the shop truly is. I am excited to spend more time at the woodshop this academic year as the Hopkins Center Woodworking Fellow. I feel a spoon craze coming.



Sterling and turquoise ring

## Berit DeGrandpre '20, Jewelry Fellow

The fantastic opportunity to work on projects and develop new skills in the Claflin Jewelry Studio has been an essential creative outlet for me throughout my time at Dartmouth. Over the course of the last three years, I have grown as an artist and jeweler, and gained confidence in my technical abilities in the studio. I'm looking forward to another great year of learning, growing, and creating new art! The Claflin Jewelry Studio is such an incredible place on campus, filled with supportive people, inspiring art, and unparalleled resources. During my fellowship in the Hopkins Center, I'm so excited to work on student engagement in the studio and help bring new students in so they can find ways to express their own creativity!

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where students work with talented craftspeople to develop artistic and technical abilities as well as important life skills. This support helps maintain our extensive inventory of tools and keeps our studios in magnificent form.

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## We would like to thank the donors whose endowment gifts provide steady support every year in perpetuity.

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## And we would love to hear from you

### Greg Elder, Woodworking Shop Director

[gregory.elder@dartmouth.edu](mailto:gregory.elder@dartmouth.edu) • 603.646.2347

### Jeff Georgantes, Claflin Jewelry Studio Director

[t.jeffrey.georgantes@dartmouth.edu](mailto:t.jeffrey.georgantes@dartmouth.edu) • 603.646.3226

### Jenny Swanson, Ceramics Studio Director

[jennifer.s.swanson@dartmouth.edu](mailto:jennifer.s.swanson@dartmouth.edu) • 603.646.0188

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