

## My Story

elizabeth Hake

I was a troubled teen longer than some, until i was 25 to be exact. Though it took me some time to finally settle into art it was always with me even when I wasn't ready to commit. My mother did every craft and art project known and unknown with us when we were little. I think the one artistic action that made the biggest impression on me and shaped my view of the world the most was hair washing time. As I looked up at the ceiling my mom had me describe what pictures i saw there in the textures. She kept my mind and eyes occupied to keep the soap out of my eyes, but instead she taught me how to see. Fast forward a few years down the road and I found myself as many young people in this modern world; LOST in a sea of too many options with absolutely no bearing or direction. As a college dropout the only real hobby I had was picking up trash in alleys and streets. I would hang random bits on my walls in a crazy kind of trash collage. After four years of being a waitress I took a class at Arrowmont in jewelry and have been making jewelry ever since. These days I still pick up trash but now I set my found treasures in sterling silver to raise their perceived value. Those pieces that are run over, scratched up, and rusted remind me of where I've been and what is important to me. My found object work is a homage, a way to honor the path we take in life; as every little and big thing we do makes us who we are. Am I shiny and new, is anybody? No, and I am proud of that. My life and path have made me wiser and more interesting. Life mirrors the metal cast offs I pick up, it's just more interesting with a little wear and tear. The unknown factors and mystery of where a person has been and what actually happened along the way fascinate me. What gives meaning to life and to jewelry for me is history, because everyone and everything has a past life. Just like you and me my jewelry has a past, and also a second chance at a new life.

## Biography

1992-1995 summer classes at Arrowmont

1996 Work Study at Arrowmont

1993-1996 Northern Michigan University

1996 Northwest Michigan Regional Dennis Museum, Traverse City Michigan

1996 B.F.A. Degree from Northern Michigan University Jewelry

1997-1998 Graduate study at Pittsburg State University Pittsburg, KS

1997 Topeka Competition 21 Regional Fine Arts Gallery Topeka, Kansas

1997 Invitational Positive Space Gallery, Girard Kansas

1999 established Wear Jewelry business owner

2001-2011 member Weaverville Art Safari

2001 Director Food the Art Gallery Asheville, NC

2002 Wearable Expressions International show Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute Utica, New York

2002 Out of the Closet, Exhibition and Performance of wearable art Patriot Hall Performing Arts Center, Sumter South Carolina

2002 I See London, I See France Exhibition, ARC Gallery, Chicago Illinois

2002 -2003 Artist in Residence Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts 2003 to present full time artist 2004 Solo show Durham Arts Alliance Durham, NC

2004-2011 Instructor at John C. Campbell Folk School

2005 to present member Southern Highland Craft Guild

## Bibliography

Art Jewelry, magazine 2010 image

Jewellery From Recycled Materials, A&C Black, London 2009 book

500 Necklaces, Lark Books, 2206 image

Chain Mail Jewelry, project contributor Lark Books 2006

Paper Jewelry, project contributor Lark Books 2006

Fabulous Jewelry from Found Objects, project contributor Lark Books  
2005

Art Jewelry Today, Book Dona Meliach 2003

Metalsmith, magazine show review with image Fall 2002

Chicago Tribune, December 27, 2002 Show review

Lapidary Journal, April 2002 show review with image