

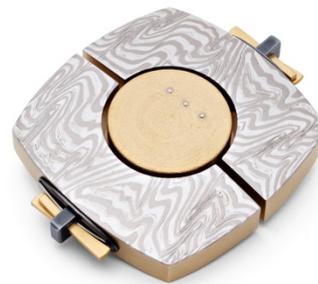
News Release

## Bridging the gap between east and west: Metal Museum hosts an exhibit for Japanese techniques in metal art

*This exhibit will be on display from March 29 to September 13, 2020*



Hiroko Sato-Pijanowski, Mokume-gane Pot, 2016.  
Silver, shakudo, copper. Image courtesy of Penland  
Gallery.



George Sawyer, *Puzzle Brooch*, 1999. 18K yellow  
gold, 22K yellow gold, 14K gray gold, sterling silver.  
Image courtesy of Penland Gallery.

**MEMPHIS (January 8, 2020)** – Throughout our world’s history, peoples and cultures have developed their own ways of creating objects and working with basic materials. This includes wood craft, glass blowing, pottery, and metalworking. In this exhibit, curated by Hiroko Yamada of HYART Gallery and originating at Penland School of Craft, patrons may explore the intersection of culture by viewing the works of 29 metal artists: seven American metalsmiths and 22 Japanese artists, three of whom have been given the greatest honor of being designated as Japanese Living National Treasures.

“The long history of Japanese traditional metalskills has slowly seen a decline in being passed to the next generation. The technique and skill has either been closed and protected or limited to certain families or selected artists. In order to pass on the skills, Japanese artists and masters have realized that there is a need to be open and willing to teach, not only within the family, or even to other Japanese, but also to be open to instruction internationally. My mission is to bring together artistic skills and knowledge that will help both Japanese and American artists grow in their work and achieve new levels of excellence.”

- Hiroko Yamada, Curator

**Event Details:**

*Tradition of Excellence: Japanese Techniques in Contemporary Metal Arts* opens on Sunday, March 29, 2020 and closes on Sunday, September 13, 2020. An exhibition reception and gallery talk with curator Hiroko Yamada will take place on Sunday, March 29, starting at 3pm. The reception is free and open to the public.

**About Penland School of Craft**

Penland School of Craft is an international center for craft education dedicated to helping people live creative lives. Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, Penland offers variable length workshops in books, paper, clay, drawing, glass, iron, metals, photography, printmaking, letterpress, textiles, and wood. The school also offers artists' residencies, local programs, and the Penland Gallery and information center. The gallery is one of the finest showcases for contemporary craft in the Southeast. Attracting thousands of visitors each year, the gallery exhibits and sells work by current and former Penland instructors, resident artists, and former students from around the country.

**About the Metal Museum**

The Metal Museum is the only institution in the United States devoted exclusively to the preservation, promotion, and advancement of the art and craft of fine metalwork. This mission is achieved through four primary program areas – exhibitions, collections, studio practice, and community education and engagement. Programs are facilitated on the Museum grounds and at locations across the Mid-South. Located on 3.2 acres of historic property overlooking the Mississippi River, the Museum grounds include the main Museum building as well as the Metalworking Facilities, Library + Resource Center, and private artist residences. Learn more about the Museum and its programs by visiting our website at [metalmuseum.org](http://metalmuseum.org).

The Museum receives operating support from ArtsMemphis and the Tennessee Arts Commission. Programming support is received from Hyde Family Foundations, the Windgate Charitable Foundation, and hundreds of corporate, foundation, and individual supporters.

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High-resolution images of artwork are available upon request. Please contact Kim Ward, Marketing Manager for the Metal Museum, at (901) 774-6380 or [kimward@metalmuseum.org](mailto:kimward@metalmuseum.org)