

For Immediate Release

Harsh Holiday Bazaar: *Alchemy*

November 15th–December 15th, 2024

Opening Reception November 15th, 6–8 p.m. at 61 Greenpoint Ave, Brooklyn, NY



Left: Jade Nguyen Van, *Fallen Angel Ring*, recycled sterling silver with fire opal cabochon
Right: Hanna Lefcourt, *Pierced Cameo Necklace*

New York, New York – Harsh Collective is pleased to announce the second edition of the Harsh Holiday Bazaar, *Alchemy*, a group exhibition featuring all female-identifying artists who work with metal. The show will open on Friday, November 15th with an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m at Harsh Collective's Greenpoint location, 61 Greenpoint Ave #103.

In alchemy, a medieval pseudoscience and predecessor of modern chemistry, the objective is to transform matter. More specifically, the process of turning one metal into a more precious and rare material. In alchemical texts, metals are gendered and vessels used for these experiments are referred to as wombs. Alchemy and metal have a strong connection to the feminine, yet metalwork is a field dominated by and associated with men. *Alchemy* seeks to reinterpret metalwork as a process imbued with as much femininity as masculinity by highlighting featured artists Imogen Brent, Jade Ellis, Caroline Kindelt, Hanna Lefcourt, Seelye Designs, and Jade Nguyen Van.

“As with the first edition of the *Harsh Holiday Bazaar* in 2023, this exhibition highlights art forms that are often seen as artisan rather than art. *Alchemy* focuses on the women carving their space in the male-dominated medium of metalworking,” shares Etta Harshaw, Founder of Harsh Collective.

Artist Hanna Lefcourt shares that “There is an innate sensitivity to metal work that is completely overlooked. Metal is extremely temperamental and delicate. I feel that especially in contemporary art, most institutions focus on artists that fit our preconceived notions of ‘masculine’ in both form and material. We sometimes forget that jewelry is the largest contemporary use of metalwork in the arts that is used in everyday life, ranging and including all societies and economic classes. In my own work, I try to create objects that are amorphous and sometimes ambiguous. I enjoy the complicated relationship between something that is so dangerous, unrefined, rigid, tough, or even scary, and at the same time brilliant, soft, ethereal, natural, and elegant.”

In support of our goal of building connections in our community, Harsh Collective is thrilled to present holiday programming to accompany this exhibition. In partnership with Seelye Designs, Harsh Collective will host a signet ring creation bar and [ring carving workshop](#) on December 14th from 2:30 to 4:30. This workshop is catered towards beginners, and is a unique “pre” holiday activity that results in a custom piece of jewelry sent to the creator in the new year.

About the Artists

Imogen Brent

Imogen Brent is an Australian multimedia artist who lives and works in New York City. Her practice comprises mixed media sculpture, installation, collaborative projects and oil painting.

https://www.instagram.com/imi_b

Jade Ellis

Jade Ellis graduated with a BA in Art Practices from the University of Colorado Boulder, with a minor in Art History. Jade has a diverse portfolio that includes oil painting, sculpture, film, graphic design, and a combination of literary arts with textile and sculptural work.

<https://www.instagram.com/jadeellisart>

Caroline Kindelt

Caroline Kindelt is an artist living and working in Brooklyn, NY. Her work reflects on humanity's ingenuity while drawing attention to the environmental consequences of our actions. The power to adapt and manipulate nature with tools and technologies comes with a responsibility to act sustainably. Caroline demonstrates the impacts of different simple or complex machines on natural materials like sticks and rocks. Her work reminds us of our lasting impact on natural resources and ecosystems, highlighting the need for sustainable practices.

<https://www.instagram.com/carolinekindelt/>

Hanna Lefcourt

Hanna Lefcourt is a self-trained craft jeweler, originally coming from a background as an art director in the beauty industry. Her slow-made jewelry line, *My Dearest World*, focuses on experimental handmade jewelry and objects. *My Dearest World* takes inspiration from the sensitivity and beauty, versus the chaos and complication, innately found in nature. The focus of *My Dearest World* is hand-sourced unique materials and shells sourced from around the world that have a history to them. All pieces are 100% lead-free, non-toxic, soft metals, surgical steel or sterling silver, natural found shells, and freshwater pearls.

<https://www.instagram.com/mydearestworld/>

Jade Nguyen Van

Jade Nguyen Van is a Paris-based textile artist, ceramicist, and jeweler. She began producing her pieces using a few simple tools and then gradually built up a small studio at home. For her jewelry brand *middaia*, she mixes several techniques including metalwork and ceramics, and uses several found items including talismans and pearls. Nguyen Van grew up in a very small town, surrounded by nature, and this ignited her attraction to mysterious objects, long-lost treasures, fairy tales, and gatherings.

<https://www.instagram.com/middaia/>

Seelye Designs

Seelye Designs is a mother-daughter team comprised of Hannah and Kathy French, working and living between Brooklyn, NY, and Boulder, CO. The brand is named for their shared middle name passed down through generations of women in their family. Seelye Designs believes that each piece of their jewelry has a story to tell, intimately woven into the details. The company is an ode to females who have led the way for us with their strength and grace. Hannah French, a graduate of Studio Jewelers in New York City, specializes in the art of lost wax casting, hand-making each piece in Seelye's Brooklyn studio.

<https://www.instagram.com/seelyedesigns>

About Harsh Collective

Harsh Collective is an artist-first gallery that amplifies emerging contemporary artists' voices and offers a bespoke platform where collectors, artists, and guests are welcome and encouraged to build community. Harsh Collective demystifies the art market's inner workings, allowing the artist to be at the forefront—bringing attention to their process, inspiration, and story.

<https://www.harshcollective.com/>