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## ***TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF***

My name is Ryan Gardner, owner of Ryan Gardner Designs. I describe myself as a jewelry artist as well as a teacher of jewelry and lapidary techniques. I got into making jewelry when I was in college at Bowling Green State University. There I received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Three Dimensional Studies with my focus being on jewelry and metalsmithing. After graduation I moved to Colorado to apprentice with Michael Boyd and later became his full time assistant. I worked for Michael for nearly 9 years working for myself on the side trying to build a collection of my own. In 2018 I went completely on my own for jewelry making and partnered with Michael in opening the Colorado Center for Metal Arts where we teach classes and host workshops in jewelry and lapidary techniques.



## ***WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO METALSMITHING?***

I found jewelry making when I was in college. I was originally in school for digital art and 3-D animation. I took jewelry 1 as an elective and fell in love. By my junior year I was spending all my time in the jewelry studio and decided to switch my major to jewelry and metalsmithing. Including school, I have been working with metal for about 15 years.

## ***TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR PRACTICE***

I work in both silver and high karat golds. I most often do a mix of metals in a single piece. I also work a lot with stone, cutting and carving cabochons for my pieces. I have my own private space within the studio at the Colorado Center for Metal Arts located in Pueblo, CO. I work full time as a

jewelry artist. My work is my main source of my income. Along with making jewelry I also run the Colorado Center for Metal Arts along with Michael Boyd, we are in the process of adding a gallery to our facility that will feature artists from the studio along with work from artists around the country. I do not currently employ or mentor anyone at this time however; I would really like to offer apprenticeships in the future. I am always open to doing custom and commissioned work for clients. I teach workshops at our studio here in Pueblo as well as for schools and facilities around the country.



### ***WHAT WAS THE MOST MEMORABLE THING YOU HAVE MADE?***

I think the most memorable things I have made to date are the pieces in my Gold Bubble Collection

### ***WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING IN METAL?***

I really enjoy working with both stone and metal. It is amazing what the earth has produced, and it is very exciting to explore it.

### ***WHERE CAN WE SEE YOUR WORK?***

You can currently see my work at our studio here in Pueblo, CO, at Balefire Goods in Arvada, CO, at Topaz Gallery in Atlanta, GA, and John Ripple USA in Santa Fe, NM.



### ***WHY ARE YOU A MEMBER OF COMA AND WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF IT?***

I have really enjoyed being a member since coming to Colorado. It has provided a great source of inspiration and energy to work from as well as an amazing community where I have made a lot of friends.

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#### **Images from top to bottom of the article:**

*Gold Bubble and Amethyst Pendant, 22K gold, 18K gold, 23K gold leaf, sterling silver, optical quartz, amethyst, diamonds, 2020*

*Gold Bubble Necklace, 23K gold leaf, sterling silver, optical quartz, 2019, 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Saul Bell Design Award*

*Bubble Necklace, sterling silver, 18K gold, optical quartz, mother of pearl, diamonds, 2018*