

6-12 Metal Clay - \$170

Instructor: Toney, B

Metal Clay Miniatures: From Malleable to Metal

For thousands of years, the shaping of metal has involved hammers, heavy equipment, and serious force (human or mechanical). Less than thirty years ago, a new medium was developed that allows the manipulation of small amounts of metal with no more force than human fingertips; metal clay. There are now several manufacturers, each producing several kinds of clay, with different working qualities in different types of metal; silver, copper, bronze (in multiple colors), brass, iron, and steel. All of these metal clays can be shaped in multiple ways to produce small objects which are dried and then kiln-fired to produce solid metal.

In this class, we will work with several different types of base metal clay to produce small objects suitable for jewelry and/or decorative use. Students will learn how to use commercially-made molds and texture sheets to enhance their creations, and they will also learn how to create their own molds and textures. Once shaped and dried, unfired metal clay can be further refined by sanding, carving, and smoothing techniques which we will learn and practice. The class will learn to construct working hinges, set small synthetic gemstones, and build hollow shapes.

As always, Mrs. Toney teaches techniques, and students design their own projects using those techniques. Thus, any student can make their project as manly or feminine as they wish.

Taking this class from Mrs. Toney entitles a student to free kiln-firing of metal clay projects (up to ten pieces a month) for six months from the start of class, in addition to classroom projects.

