

IMAGINE PEACE NOW! Exhibition

31 Americans are murdered with guns daily and 151 are treated for gun assault. (1) Our firearm homicide rate is 20x higher than the COMBINED rates of 22 peer countries. (2) The problem is urgent and warrants an exhibition dedicated to exploring the complex issues surrounding gun violence. As metalsmiths, we harness skills to alter guns to produce sculpture; the notion of turning Swords into Plowshares. (3)

The **Innovative Merger of Art & Guns to Inspire New Expressions**, or **IMAGINE PEACE NOW** Exhibition, is a call to arms, hearts and hands intended especially for contemporary metal artists. Included work will respond to, and initiate conversations regarding, the gun violence so prevalent in American culture today. We are soliciting proposals for art via an open call for proposals from the greater metals community. Submitted proposals must be accompanied by a detailed drawing, a brief (100 word maximum) statement to qualify. All entrants will be asked to pay a fee to help defray our shipping and operational costs. A portion of the fee will be returned upon receipt of completed work for the exhibition. All works will be for sale. A percentage of sales proceeds will be donated to the Brady Campaign, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence and also to the Society of North American Goldsmiths.

A panel of three prominent Jurors will join me in selecting work for the show, for the catalog and for Awards (based on acquiring funding). Criteria for selected work will be based on overall design, skill and impact.

Due to the finite number of disabled guns available for this project, entries will be accepted on a first come basis. Invited and accepted entrants will be shipped the dismantled weapons to transform into (un)loaded objects of art.

Catalog/ Website

Either a physical, illustrated catalog and/or a website are planned and will include an introduction to the exhibition as well as written contributions from the jurors, established crafts curators, scholars and celebrity peace activists.

Although we have not yet secured an opening exhibition site, we are in conversation with several National galleries and museums, which are under consideration. There will be a push to seek additional venues and for the show to travel.

Bally Background

An active studio metalsmith for four decades, I have been involved in numerous exhibitions by showing work. I have been invited to serve as a juror for State Fellowship programs & National exhibitions. Only select opportunities have given me an organizational or curatorial role. The curatorship with the highest

visibility I organized and collaborated with Rosanne Raab to produce the 2005 METALSMITH Exhibition in Print, a survey dedicated to Contemporary Flatware Designs. In 1996, I became affiliated with Pittsburgh's Antiviolence Coalition Gun Buy-Back Program and began dismantling their weapons for use in political art. My exhibition, Artists of a Different Caliber, opened a year later at the Hewlett Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University. I took responsibility for assembling the exhibition committee, inviting jurors, managing finances, raising funds for prizes & catalog, soliciting exhibition venues, managing the traveling show and returning the work. The Smithsonian Institution purchased work for their permanent collection. The show garnered much publicity, even an AP wire flash that went viral. An illustrated catalog, designed by Stan Mamula, was produced and the show toured, nationally.

Since my last gun show, I have expanded my network of talented colleagues and organizational affiliations giving this new show increased potential for dialogue and scope. My hope is that the topic of this exhibition has the unique ability to transcend our smaller craft/ metalsmithing community by engaging new audiences in politics and the broader visual art world.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Boris Bally

(1) The Brady Campaign averaged the most recent five years of complete data (2009-2013) from death certificates and estimates of emergency room admissions available via CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control's Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/. Data retrieved 1.22.15.

(2) Richardson, Erin G., and David Hemenway, "Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm Fatality: Comparing the United States With Other High-Income Countries, 2003," Journal of Trauma, Injury, Infection, and Critical Care, published online ahead of print, June 2010

(3) Isaiah 2:4, "And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war."

--