

Kim Stahl

Owner/Operator of Kim Stahl Designs LLC
DBA Stahl Steel Knives
Jewelry Designer, Blacksmith, KnifeMaker and Leather Craftsman

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I am passionate about creating designs that balance beauty, functionality, and purpose—whether in jewelry, blacksmithing, or knife making. Metal captivates me as a medium with its own set of possibilities and limits, which I don't see as rules but as guides. I love exploring the creative play within that space, discovering new ways to shape and transform it. My ability to think outside the box allows me to craft unique, meaningful work that pushes boundaries while remaining deeply rooted in craftsmanship. Through my designs, I aim to celebrate the resilience and beauty found in both the material and the creative process itself.

EXHIBITIONS, ARTISTIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CREATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

2024:

- Awarded \$1000 for a week of learning thanks to the Midwest Metalsmiths' Fran Siegel Scholarship to attend William Holland School of Lapidary Arts
- Awarded a \$7500 Regional Arts Commission's (RAC) Artist Support Grant (ASG)
- "Kinetic Potential," Steel Sculpture fabricated from upcycled wheels, painted, and currently on view at the Neon Museum of St. Louis (Original Exhibition at the Midwest Salute to the Arts, "Imagination Remix", curated by Art Village, August 2024).
- Art Juror for the Webster Art Fair, Webster Groves, MO

2023:

- "Tribute to Roo - Three Dogs at Play," Steel sculpture fabricated from auger springs and steel strapping material, currently on view at the Fairview Heights Sculpture Park (Original Exhibiton at the Midwest Salute to the Arts, "Connecting Contemporary Artists to Community", curated by Art Village, August 2023).

2022:

- Awarded two exhibition spaces at the St. Louis Lambert International Airport through the Lambert Art and Culture Program. Exhibition located in Terminal 2 Ticketing Area in two glass Vitrines on display from December 16, 2022 - June 13, 2023

- "On the Horizon" featured an aerial view of fabricated antenna tower and satellite-inspired sculptures as Hairsticks, Brooches and Rings in sterling silver, cubic zirconia, and an LED with pressure-fit battery compartment displayed on a steel base covered with green grass and cement bases. .
 - "Mesmerizing Treasures from Earth," a curated collection of 33 natural minerals and gems with a focus on Missouri and Illinois specimens.
- Awarded an Artica Artist Project Grant, "Disco Pig," an interactive sculpture made of pink installation foam, originally crafted as a model for a metal version, this Artica grant allowed Disco Pig to live on October 2022. Currently on display at the Neon Museum of St. Louis.

2021:

- "The Beast", Sculpted and fabricated Wart Hog head made from steel sheet and found steel objects; tractor seat, pulley wheels, auger springs with ability to shoot flames out of it's snout. Original commission for a television Pilot Show, "American Craftsman", designed for the Beast Butcher shop owner, a local eatery in St. Louis.

2019:

- "Most Unique Knife" Award, Gateway Area Knife Club Annual Cutlery Show, St. Louis, MO

2016:

- First Female Contestant on History Channel's "Forged in Fire" Knife making competition show (Season 2, Episode 1, *Warhammer*), Reality Show where 4 competitors go against each other for \$10,000 and have just 3 hours to make a knife of the shows choosing.

2005:

- "*The Gates*", Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Central Park, New York, NY, Supervisor, crew of 6 paid volunteers. Delegated tasks effectively amongst team and together successfully constructed over 130 Gate Structures along the East side of the park.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Jewelry Designer/Blacksmith KimStahlDesigns, St. Louis, MO, May 2003 – Present

- Design and oversee production of product lines for jewelry and handmade knives.
- Work with other vendors, hosts, retailers for in store, pop up events, and retail sales.
- Freelance Metal Production for Notable Designers
 - Contributed to the metal production of designs for Alexis Bittar, Judith Ripka, Fassbinder, Emily Amey, Matt Bernson, and others, further honing my skills in precision and craftsmanship while learning new techniques in collaboration with some of the best in the industry.
- Live Demonstrations of basic blacksmithing forging skills at Craig Cammerer's Annual Hammer-in, Chesterfield, IL, Donnie Neighbor's Annual Black Powder Event, Virden, IL and at Gateway Harley Davidson, St. Louis, MO.

Blacksmith Instructor Craft Alliance St. Louis, MO, October 2022 – Present

- Develop course structure for beginners and intermediate levels of blacksmithing.
- Design workshops with captivating projects that are current and relevant in

blacksmithing and that can be completed in a three hour time frame.

- Safety Training: Ensuring a safe learning environment by educating students on proper tool usage, fire safety and injury prevention.

Administrative Assistant, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, November 2013-April 2014

- Assisted in the management of the Friends of Asian Art Program: logistics, events, and communications.
- Designed and distributed public mailings and responsible for handling and delegating public inquiries
- Arranged Domestic and International travel, heavy calendar management, and budget expense reconciliation and data entry for the Asian Arts Department Chair and his team of curators, managers, and technicians.

Human Resources Coordinator & Executive Assistant, Pfizer, New York, NY, October 2005-August 2007

- Coordinator for MBA Summer Internship Program and Finance Rotational Program: responsible for end to end management of 10 Finance Colleagues and approx. 20 Summer Interns
- Key contact for all major HR transactions using PeopleSoft: new hires, transfers, promotions, separations
- Gathered data analysis for Human Resources reporting and presentation materials

ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS

Associations and Clubs:

- **Arch Reactor (Non-Profit 501c3):** MakerSpace in St. Louis, MO
 - Joined May 12, 2019
 - Board Of Directors:
 - May 2019 Secretary
 - January 2020 Public Relations
 - Event Coordinator Nov 2020 10 Year Anniversary Party
- **Midwest Metalsmiths (Non-Profit 501c3):** St. Louis, MO
 - Joined December 2023
 - 2024 Assistant Annual Show Chairperson
 - 2024 Interim Board of Directors: Vice President
- **Gateway Area Knife Club (Non-Profit Social Club):** St. Louis, MO
 - Joined 2016
 - 2023 Board of Directors: Secretary
 - Custom Knifemaker Show Chairperson 2025
- **Blacksmiths Association of Missouri (BAM), Missouri**
 - Joined Member October 2023

SKILLS

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| Gold, Sterling Silver, Brass, Copper | Aluminum, Pewter, Steel, Titanium, Wood, Plastics, Resins, Fibers | Damascus, Cable Damascus, Feather Pattern Damascus, Mokume gane | Oxy-Acetylene Tank and Torch; Maintenance / Propane Forge & Foundry (Aluminum Casting) | Sketching / Modeling / Laser Engraving | Mold Making / Silicon Molding / 3D Printing | MIG/TIG Welding / Forge Welding | Lightburn Fusion360 Thingiverse |
| Micro Arc Welder | Lost Wax Casting | Centrifugal and Vacuum Casting | Complex Silver Soldering | Cold Connections: Riveting, tap and die | Hydraulic Press Forging, Forming, | Stone Setting and Metal Finishes | Anodizing Titanium, Keum Boo, other metal Patinas |