

**An interview with CoMA business member, Jen Lesea-Ames,
Jewelry Artist and Owner of Silver Peak Studio - February 2021**



Tell us about yourself

Hi! I'm Jen, former fitness trainer and triathlete turned jewelry designer and metalsmith, and the creative visionary behind Silver Peak Studio. When COVID-19 hit in March 2020, all my art shows cancelled and most of my planned revenue vanished. I'm not new to pivoting and adapting, so I thought, "how can I help jewelers keep creating and career jewelers stay in business?"

I decided to apply for the Martha Kate Thomas Grant through Boulder County Arts Alliance in order to create a boutique-style jewelry studio where jewelers can rent the studio in a cost-effective manner on a half-day or full-day basis in a private setting. I was awarded the grant at the end of May and since then, I have hit the ground running! Additionally, I reached out to several of my

metalsmith jewelry friends to teach, and together, we offer jewelry workshops for those who want to expand their skill set in the world of jewelry making. Additionally, we offer business development classes to artists of all mediums.

Tell us about your business

Located in the NoBo Arts District in Boulder, Colorado, Silver Peak Studio offers 1-day specialty metalsmithing, jewelry design, and artist business workshops in a small group environment, with a maximum of 3 students per class. We believe students learn best when they have more interaction with the instructor and classmates. Because safety and health is our top priority, we have a cleaning protocol that is CDC compliant.



We are known for one-day, small-group workshops, with a max of 3 students which enables optimal interaction between student and instructor. Our popular 1-day Intro to Metalsmithing class enables students who have no prior metalsmithing experience to get a "taste" of jewelry fabrication without a big time or financial commitment. At the end of that class, students will have finished 2 textured sterling silver ring bands.

I never thought I would have a jewelry school; it was a happy little accident, thanks to COVID-19, when I was forced to think "outside the box" about my business model. I love connecting with people over a shared interest of jewelry making (we laugh and have a lot of fun in class, that is a requirement!). I love the intimate learning environment that I created. Lastly, especially in these unusual times, I also love being able to employ fellow metalsmiths and empower them to share their passion of metalsmithing in an intimate, yet socially distanced, environment.



What is your favorite tool right now?

My Joyce Chen Unlimited Scissor is currently my favorite tool, I seem to use them daily. They are perfect for trimming metal and never seem to get dull.

Why did you join CoMA as a business member?

I joined as a business member of CoMA when I started the school in July 2020. My goals were to connect with other metalsmiths and find creative ways to collaborate.

What else do you want to share with the community?

Silver Peak Studio is looking for instructors in jewelry fabrication; specifically in the areas of flush setting stones, prong setting stones, etching, goldsmithing, resin, and any other creative classes that highlight an instructor's skill set. Classes typically are on weekends. We're looking for instructors to start in late spring or summer and we offer competitive pay. Visit our website [contact page](#) and get in touch to learn more!

[Visit our website](#) for a schedule of classes and follow us on social media to see highlights of students' work and keep track of what we are up to!

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/silverpeakstudioboulder>

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