

the Seattle Metals Guild

REMEMBERING

RAMONA SOLBERG

1921 - 2005

“The Henry Ford of Jewelry”

Ramona Solberg passed away Sunday night, June 12, 2005. The last days were filled with care, love, concern, jokes, laughter, good cake, part of a banana, a cadre of friends interrupting her naps, bringing her yams and rutabagas, bringing her advice and concern, bringing her the outside world, and bringing her love. All through these last weeks and days, Ramona produced her last pieces of jewelry, began to designate the recipients to her phenomenal collection of treasures, and baked a cake. The cake baking was pretty typical of our friend: she thought perhaps she had been distracted while following the recipe and perhaps had doubled the amount of oil. Her counter-attack? Rum. The recipient of that great cake said it was the best she'd ever made! Typical Ramona.

As her gallery for the last twenty years, it has been one of life's great pleasures representing Ramona. The pieces I picked up four days before she passed (she was in good spirits, a note on the door saying *Karen, come on in*, self-effacing as ever as I exclaimed over her work. It was a pleasure to have spent this



last hour commiserating about how one never had enough time to do everything one wanted to – but assuring her that I knew no one who had done as much as she).

We have all lost a great friend. We have lost a great Metalsmith. We have lost a certain spunk, and joy, and enthusiasm for life. Given how much we have all loved and been inspired by Ramona Solberg, the way to counter the loss is to remember her, retell all the good stories she shared, keep her in mind, and follow her example. - Karen Lorene, *Facère Jewelry Art Gallery*

A look at her history:

Education:

- BA University of Washington
- MFA University of Washington
- Professor Emeritus School of Art University of Washington

Taught:

- Central Washington University
- University of Washington 1967-1983
- Seattle Public Schools

Awards:

- Twining Humber Award: Artist Trust
- Fellow of American Craft Council
- Washington State Governor's Award



Collections:

- American Craft Museum
- Jacsonville Art Museum
- King Count Arts Commission
- Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian
- Tacoma Art Museum
- Many private jewelry art collections

EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event	Page
July 23	<i>In Our Own Image</i> final deadline	6
August 1	Pay SMG Yearly Dues	9
August 1	<i>Secret Identities</i> deadline	7
August 1	<i>Concourse A</i> deadline	7
August 1	<i>Good Bird/Bad Bird</i> deadline	7
August 1	Return Election Ballots!	9
Aug 4-Sep 30	<i>In Our Own Image</i> exhibition	6
August 11	C. James Meyer lecture	6
August 12-15	C. James Meyer Workshop, Pratt	6
August 25	<i>Wearable Expressions</i> deadline	6
Sep 1	Smithsonian Craft Show and Sale US mail submission deadline	7
Sep 20	Smithsonian Craft Show and Sale online submission deadline	7
Oct 1	<i>500 necklaces</i> deadline	7
Oct 21	SMG General Meeting	
Oct 28-Nov27	<i>Secret Identities</i> exhibition	7
Nov 4	Symposium Reception	4
Nov 5	Symposium Lectures	4-5
Nov 5	Symposium Auction	
Nov 7-10	Dee Fontans Workshop and Exhibition	4
Nov 18-Jan 9	<i>Good Bird/Bad Bird</i> exhibition	7
Nov 19-Jan 16	<i>Wearable Expressions</i> exhibition	6

