

John Rais

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Studio: 570-409-0441 mobile: 570-228-1029

Education:

1998 MFA, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI.

1995 BFA, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA.

Exhibitions:

- 2007 "Function", The Gallery Project, Ann Arbor, MI
New Steel, The Metals Museum, Memphis, TN
- 2006 **Solo Exhibition**, Massimo Bizzocchi, New York, NY.
Fresh from the Foundry Select works from the Kohler Art Center's permanent collection. Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan, WI.
"Bloom" sculpture show, Brookfield Center for Craft, Brookfield, CT.
- 2005 **Sculpture in the Garden**, invitational outdoor sculpture show, Hawk Mountain, PA.
Forms Without Function, Thirteen Moons Gallery, Santa Fe, NM.
Seven Years of Demonstrators Exhibition, College of Creative Studies, Detroit, MI.
Smithsonian Craft Show, Washington D.C.
SOFA Chicago, represented by Thirteen Moons gallery, Santa Fe, NM.
- 2004 **Basket Invitational**, Snyderman Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.
Iron, a New Vocabulary, invitational, Penland Gallery, Penland School of Crafts, Penland, NC.
Vessels and Basketry, Snyderman-Works Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.
Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, Philadelphia, PA.
Sculptural Basketry, 13 Moons Gallery, Santa Fe, NM.
Smithsonian Craft Show, Washington, D.C.
Delmano Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2003 **Enhancements, Invitational Exhibits USA**, Exhibit of art traveling to ten museums and galleries.
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| 1/2001 | Museum of the Southwest |
| 4/2001 | Del Rio Council on the Arts |
| 6/2001 | J. Wayne Stark University Galleries, College Station, Texas |
| 11/2001 | Perspective Gallery, Blacksburg, Virginia |
| 1/2002 | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum, Logan, Utah |
| 4/2002 | Craft and Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles, California |
| 6/2002 | Longmont Museum, Longmont, Colorado |
| 9/2002 | University of Kentucky art Museum, Lexington, Kentucky |
| 11/2002 | Milton Hershey School Art Museum, Hershey, Pennsylvania |
| 1/2003 | Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas |
| 6/2003 | Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art, Shawnee, Oklahoma |
| 9/2003 | Hicks Art Center, Newtown, Pennsylvania |

- 2003 **Contemporary Blacksmithing, Sculptural**, Mine Metal Art Gallery, Williamsburg, NYC.
S.O.F.A. Chicago "The Teapot Redefined", represented by Mobilia Gallery, Cambridge, MA.
Contemporary Baskets, American Art Company, Tacoma, WA.
Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, Philadelphia, PA.
Gallery 500, Elkins Park, PA.
- 2002 **Studio Furniture Invitational**, Ironwood Gallery. Ridgefield, CT.
S.O.F.A. Chicago, Represented by Gallery 500, Elkins Park, PA.
Contemporary Baskets, American Art Company, Tacoma, WA.
- 2001 **Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show**, Philadelphia, PA.
Similar Differences: A Show of Four Object Makers, Artspace Gallery, Richmond, VA.
- 2000 **Regional Arts 2000**, Marywood University, Scranton, PA.
Fourth Annual Outdoor Sculpture Invitational, Clark Gallery, Lincoln, MA.
Four Artists From Peters Valley, Sally D. Francesco Gallery, Layton, NJ.
Pieces That Serve, J. Cotter Gallery, Vail, CO.
- 1999 **Twentieth Century Art Exposition**, New York, NY:
Represented by Yaw Gallery, Birmingham, MI.
Gallery Without Walls, exhibition of prominent NJ artists, Morristown, NJ.
The Fork, The Spoon, The Knife, Yaw Gallery, Birmingham, MI.
* Also exhibited at S.O.F.A. NYC
Critical Mass, invitational show/symposium of contemporary iron art, Sussex County College, NJ.
*Organized, curated and acted as master of ceremonies for exhibit and symposium.
- 1998 **Invitational**, Network Gallery, Pontiac, MI.
Members Show, Artist/Blacksmiths Association of North America, Asheville, NC.
Summer Show Invitational, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI.
In Hand and Home, architectural hardware show, Seattle, WA.
Refined Metals Competition, SFA Gallery, SFA University, Nacogdoches, TX.
- 1997 **Contemporary Metalsmiths**, Young and Constantin Gallery, Wilmington, VT.
2007 Conversations, Metal art exhibit and symposium,
Blacksmithing Exhibit, Attleboro Art Museum, Attleboro, MA.

Professional Experience:

2004 - Present

Senior Lecturer, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA.
Small Scale Steel Working, Fall 2004
Small Scale Steel Working, Fall 2006
Metalsmithing, spring, 2005

Researched and created original curriculum for introductory and advanced courses, which enabled students to develop a solid knowledge technical base. Skills taught included: drawing and design, pattern making, fabrication of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, hot and cold forging and forming, cutting, drilling and machining, filing, sanding, polishing, patina application. Provided professional feedback, created insightful lectures, administered art criticism, papers, group discussions, and sight visits to enlighten students.

1998 - Present

Owner/Operator of John Rais Studios, Milford, PA.

Design and create functional and sculpture-based custom metal objects. Consult with clients and architects, purchase and maintain tools and equipment involved in a contemporary metal studio, oversee and train assistants and interns, purchase materials and keep inventory, maintain website, show artwork in galleries, museums and shows internationally, handle all publicity issues including press releases and mailings, handle all finances and project budgets and investments.

2004

Adjunct Professor, State University of New York at New Paltz
Intro to Metalsmithing, Spring

Researched and created course curriculum for introductory metals. Skills taught included: Design and concept development, soldering, hollow form construction, chasing and repousse, chain making, texturing, hinges and joinery, patination. Provided critiques, lectures, and conducted group discussions.

2003

Adjunct Instructor, County College of Sussex, Newton, NJ.
3- D Design, fall, 2003

Researched and created course curriculum, and selected textbook for introductory level 3 dimensional design course. Taught: design understanding and interpretation, plaster mold making, clay modeling, wire contour sculpting, structural building and performance study, wearable art, art writing and criticism.

1997- 2001

Department Head of Blacksmithing,
Peters Valley Craft Education Center, Layton, NJ.

Program all courses involving the department of blacksmithing, create an intellectual template for which to guide the direction of the program, create an annual budget, handle all finances, oversee students, oversee all assistants and departmental residents, run all aspects of the teaching studio, fund development, curate shows, conceive and implement symposia, coordinate advertising and advertising budget with pr personnel, maintain a personal studio and active show schedule, lecture on behalf of the school, participate in various community outreach programs.

Lectures/Workshops:

- 2006 **University of Wisconsin**, Sheboygan, WI, artist lecture.
John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan, WI, artist lecture.
- 2005 **Peters Valley Craft Center**, Layton, NJ, Instructor,
"Some Assembly Required".
- 2004 **New England School of Metalworking**, Lewiston, ME, Instructor, 5-day
course in sculpture.
Peters Valley Craft Center, Layton, NJ, Instructor,
5-day workshop in forged furniture.
Penland School Penland, NC, Instructor, 2 week Iron Studio course in steel
hollowware.
- 2002 **Touchstone Center for Crafts**, Farmington, PA, Instructor, 5-day sheet-
forging workshop.
Pittsburgh Area Blacksmiths Guild, Pittsburgh, PA, Guest Demonstrator.
Peters Valley Craft Center, Layton, NJ, Instructor, 5-day mixed metals
forging workshop,
- 2001 **Peters Valley Craft Center**, Layton, NJ, Instructor,
5-day iron sculpture workshop.
Berkshire Blacksmiths Association, Montgomery, NY,
Guest Demonstrator/Lecturer.
- 2000 **Peters Valley Craft Center**, Layton, NJ, Instructor,
3-day blacksmithing workshop.
S.U.N.Y. New Paltz, NY, Guest Demonstrator/ Lecturer, North-East
Blacksmiths Association.
**Artist Blacksmiths Association of North America International
Conference**, Flagstaff, AZ, Guest Demonstrator *Titanium Forging*.
Center for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI, Guest Demonstrator/ Lecturer.
- 1999 **Peters Valley Craft Center**, Layton, NJ, Instructor, 6-day contemporary
hardware workshop.
Millersville University, Millersville, PA, Demonstrator/ Lecturer.
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, Guest Demonstrator/
Lecturer, 2-day visiting artist, fine arts department.
Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA, Guest Lecturer.
Critical Mass Iron Symposium, Newton, NJ, Guest lecturer, organizer and
master of ceremonies.
- 1997 **Center for Creative Studies**, Detroit, MI. Guest Lecturer.

Awards:

- 2006 **Residency**, John Michael Kohler Art Center, Kohler, WI.
- 2004 **Artists Choice Award**, Smithsonian Craft Show, Washington, D.C.
- 2002 **Best Metals Design**, Philadelphia Furniture and Furnishings Show,
Philadelphia, PA.
- 1998 **Residency** at Peters Valley Craft Center, Layton, NJ
- 1997 **Albert and Peggy DeSalle Merit Award**
- 1996 **Albert and Peggy DeSalle Merit Award**

1995 Pace Gallery Award

Recent Collections:

John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan, WI.
Kohler Co of Kohler, WI.
Louise Berg, Sheboygan, WI.
Marc Rowland, Okalahoma City, OK.
Rich Silver, Hilton Head Island, SC.
Horn Collection, Little Rock, AR.
Gloria and Sonny Kamm Collection, San Francisco, CA.
Robert Pfannebecker Craft Collection, Lancaster, PA.
Thomas Gatch, New York, NY.
Ron and Peggy Schecter, Maui, Hawaii
Barbara Schiffrin, Villanova, PA.
Gail M. Brown, Philadelphia, PA.
The Broad Street Bar & Brasserie, Milford, PA.
Harris Wildstein, Huntington Park, PA.
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Cohn, Radnor, PA.
R.G. Huber, Layton, NJ.
Massimo Bizzocchi, Milan, Italy
Bob Cooperstein, Boston, MA.
Amy and Michael Kavadas, Bloomfield Hills, MI.
William Brown, Penland, NC.
Bennett and Cathy Bao Bean, Blairstown, NJ.
Janis Wetsman, Birmingham, MI.
R.G. and Barbara Huber, Layton, NJ.
Edith and Barry Briskin, Bloomfield Hills, MI.
Lizzy Yu, Soul, Korea.

Publications:

2005 ***Niche Magazine***, December issue, featured metal artist
2005 ***Philadelphia Magazine***, fall issue, featured metal artist
2004 ***American Craft Magazine***, August/September issue, Commissions section
2004 ***Philadelphia Magazine***, August feature article on the artist's fire screens
2003 ***Metalsmith Magazine***, winter issue, Practical Matter;
Contemporary Metal Furniture
2002 ***Metalsmith Magazine***, Juried Exhibition in Print issue
2002 ***Ritz Carlton Magazine***, Summer issue
2002 ***Metalsmith Magazine***, Commissions section, winter issue
2001 ***Skylands Visitor Magazine***, Northwest NJ artists' section, January issue
2001 ***American Craft Magazine***, Gallery section, June/July issue
2001 ***Departures Magazine***, Black Book section, January issue
2001 ***Anvil Magazine***, *feature interview, January issue
2000 ***Metalsmith Magazine***, gallery review section, winter issue
1999 ***American Craft Magazine***, Portfolios section, January issue

- 1997 ***Anvils Ring Magazine***, showcase section, winter issue
1996 ***Anvils Ring Magazine***, showcase section, fall issue

Books/documentary:

- 2003 **Maker Profile John Rais**, Contemporary Makers series DVD
by Graham Eccles, Great Britain aprox. 48 minutes
2002 **Architectural Ironwork** by Dona Z. Meilach, 2001 Schiffer Publishing,
page 28
2001 **Fireplace Accessories** by Dona Z. Meilach, 2002, Schiffer Publishing,
pp. 42, 69, 219, 242
2005 **Art of the Tea Pot** by Dona Meilach