Vale Craft Gallery
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Bonnie Shopper

Enameling is a marvelous medium in which to work. Basically, enameling is the fusing of powdered glass onto metal. The results are relatively rapid: each firing in a preheated 1500 degree kiln may take only two minutes. The piece is allowed to cool, then cleaned and prepared for the next layer of powdered glass to be applied and fired. This entire process is repeated many times, adding to the depth and design. My metal is copper. The combination of transparent colors of glass on this rich, warm metal is brilliant. When heated, bare copper will oxidize. I often incorporate this natural property into my design. I have most recently been experimenting with welding equipment to melt the edges of some copper pieces. I like the juxtaposition of the rough dark edge with the smooth elegance of the enamel.

For a long period of time, until perhaps two years ago, I was out of touch with my craft. I had found that supplying galleries and preparing for shows had begun too much to dominate my life. I needed to stop, completely and for several years. After this long hiatus, I have gone back again and I'm fired up