



Artist Instructor Profile – Marty Hyman

Marty Hyman's first memory of creating art was in a fifth-grade geography class. They were studying South America and he discovered that he had a talent for drawing large, colorful maps. Marty also recalls that as a young teenager in 1960 he painted an oil on canvas of his impression of Big Brother from George Orwell's 1984. It hung in a folk coffee house in Philadelphia until it sold.

After studying electrical engineering at Drexel University and transferring to Temple University to earn a degree in English Literature and Educational Psychology, Marty was awarded a two-summer fellowship in African American Studies at Lincoln University. During his summer school vacations he apprenticed with his wife's father, Marshall Littman, who was among the best jewelry designers in the Philadelphia area. It was in his jewelry studio that Marty learned how to take a design concept and create a wearable piece of art.

After teaching for eight years, in the early 1970's he transitioned to becoming a fine jewelry manufacturer. Marty produced a collection of diamond and colored stone jewelry in gold and platinum that were sold to the high-end retail jewelry stores nationwide. He quickly discovered that he had to develop many unique designs that would appeal to people who knew what fine jewelry looked like. So, in the early 1980's he had a rather ample collection of fine jewelry designs that were sold in fine jewelry stores around the country. Marty's past work is still sold in a few jewelry stores in Philadelphia, Chicago, and Washington D.C.; however, he reserves his newest work to be sold only in the Armory Art Center store. Marty's favorite jewelry artist is Jean Schlumberger, who was the major jewelry designer for Tiffany & Co. for the better part of the twentieth century. His curiosity for the natural world led him to designing some of the most beautiful and meaningful jewelry in the world.

Marty is honored to teach and create his pieces at the Armory Art Center, where he believes they have one of the finest jewelry studios on the East Coast. He loves that The Armory encourages both faculty and students to explore their interests and develop their talent by taking on challenging new areas in their artistic area of interest. The most important technical skills that Marty imparts to his students are those that will enable them to derive pleasure in completing their design concept into a finished piece of jewelry. While he believes that jewelry design is an art form, the actual execution of the design into precious metal using gemstones requires a vast amount of knowledge and skill. Outside of the technical skills necessary to design and make a piece of jewelry, he hopes that his students also learn the joy that their art can bring to themselves and others. Marty would like potential students to know that with his experience in teaching as well as more than thirty-five years as a manufacturing jeweler, he is fully equipped to help them develop their talent and achieve their goal of learning how to design and create beautiful works of art in the form of wearable jewelry.

Marty lives an active life outside of the Armory Art Center. He and his wife are fully retired from the jewelry manufacturing business. He has an active interest in current events and gardening, and he frequently visits both of his sons who are in the jewelry business. Marty's biggest joy is seeing their four grandchildren grow into nice people. While he loves to visit well organized museums, he enjoys finding art in everyday life as well.

The sculptor, Auguste Rodin, once said about life, "The main thing is to be moved, to love, to hope, to tremble, to live." For Marty, the concept of an innovative design pops into his head and then the work to convert the idea into art begins. There are times when he believes that he may fail, but the idea drives him on. He has made about every mistake humanly possible while making jewelry, but from each mistake he learns how to improve his skills to reach his goal of creating a piece of art.

– Contributed by Denise Mariani
Mariani Communications

About the Artist: Marty Hyman was an electrician and an English Teacher before he settled down to become an accomplished jewelry manufacturer in Philadelphia, PA. For more than thirty-five years, his companies manufactured diamond engagement ring mountings, colored stone jewelry, and one-of-a-kind handmade platinum jewelry. During his last ten years in business, he has mentored metal artists and jewelry design students from the Philadelphia University of the Arts. Marty has a BS in Educational Psychology and a BS in English Literature.