

# Catherine J. Rivera



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## Artist Statement and Description of my Practice

Luminescence, botanical and marine organic forms inspire me to create my unique sculptural pieces of wearable art. Incorporating fused glass, pearls, clay and bone I am able to capture a moment in nature. As a metal artist, I create fluid forms that appear soft, warm and inviting in a usually cold, rigid material. Fusing the dichroic glass in each piece is reminiscent of the iridescence of butterfly wings, tropical fish, sunsets, coral reefs, and tropical Florida. Pieces are fabricated using traditional metalsmithing techniques with silver, brass, bronze, and copper. Other materials are collected from the many places I travel, African bone, Ankor Wat clay tablets, Venetian glass, Tibetan sand, and Egyptian rocks. Each piece tells a special story and shares a spiritual connection with another place and time. Each piece is a wearable work of Art. When wearing one of my pieces, others are drawn closer to examine and talk about the work, and that's where the story begins.

## Experience

### Jewelry Designer and Metal Smith

1978 - present

- Exhibited in Gallery and Art Shows in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Florida
- Numerous exhibitions and awards in each state including CQ Gallery, Beaux Arts Festival, Biscayne Nature Center Gallery, Coral Gables Museum, MOCA, DACA Gallery, Coconut Grove Gallery in Mayfair, West Dade Regional Library, and Pinecrest Gardens Hibiscus Gallery in Florida.
- Travelled as an exhibiting jewelry artist in Outdoor Art Festivals throughout NY, PA, NJ, MA, FL for 14 years
- Awarded Award of Excellence for Jewelry Design by the state of Florida for the past 5 years
- Privately Collected by Numerous Patrons in NY, PA, NJ, MA, FL.
- Facebook Page: “@FlowingwithPearls”

### Visual Arts Teacher in Miami Dade County Schools

1982 - 2019

- National Board-Certified Teacher
- Wrote State Standards for Middle School Art Education
- Fine Arts Department Chairperson
- Middle School Art Teacher of the Year for State of Florida - 2006
- Glades Middle School Art Teacher of the Year – 1997-98, 2018-19
- State of Florida Art Teacher of the Year – 2016
- Southeastern United States All Star Award for Art Education- 2017
- Skevy Ralis Middle School Art Advocacy Award- Dade Art Education Association 2007
- Hinchey-Sipes Award winner for Art Advocacy- Dade Art Education Association 2019
- Distinguished Service Award- Florida Art Education Association 2019
- Teacher of Professional Development Jewelry Workshops to Art Teachers across the State of Florida, and internationally in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Hong Kong
- President of Dade Art Educators Association 2015-2017, past President 2017-2019
- Vice President of South Florida Jewelry Arts Guild 2020-2021



## Education

Master of Arts – Studio Arts, Bachelor of Arts – Bachelor of Arts - Art Education, Adelphi University, N.Y.  
1971-1977

Post Graduate studies at Parsons School of Design, 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, University of Miami, and FIU.

## Professional Affiliations

1971 - present

Florida Society of Goldsmiths

South Florida Jewelry Arts Guild

American Crafts Council

Dade Art Education Association

Florida Art Education Association

National Art Education Association

## Skills

Originally educated as a painter and printmaker (etching). Discovered metal sculpture while taking a class to complete my Master's degree in 1977. I fell in love with this new form and have been creating jewelry ever since.

I taught 2D / 3D Art in a Middle and High School which includes Drawing, Painting, Stained Glass, Fiber, Sculpture, and, of course, Jewelry.

I am an avid traveller, scuba diver, nature lover, and yogi.