

A A R O N

F A B E R

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**MASTERS AND APPRENTICES:
THE EUROPEAN TRADITION AND CONTEMPORARY JEWELRY IN AN AMERICAN CONTEXT**

The Aaron Faber gallery has invited three Master Goldsmiths working in both America and Germany – Michael Good, Barbara Heinrich and Michael Zobel and the apprentices trained in their studios to participate in a seminal exhibition exploring the evolution of ideas and techniques between Masters and Apprentices. The exhibition will be featured at SOFA Chicago, November 4 through 7, at Aaron Faber Gallery and the topic will be discussed and presented at SOFA in the accompanying lecture led by Sue Barry, art historian and Patricia Faber of the gallery.

The exhibition includes over 120 works from masters and apprentices, showing their stylistic relationships and differences.

The apprentices whose work is in the exhibition are hardly novices, ranging from goldsmiths who have owned their own studios for anywhere from three to 15 years. The exhibition captures their evolution from student or apprentice– in early pieces that show the influence of their mentor very strongly – to independent artist.

The exhibition and lecture celebrate and examine the nature of the relationship between the Master and the Apprentice in an American context. The old European tradition, still strong in Germany today, educates goldsmiths through a rigorous apprenticeship program, including years of education and then training under a Master goldsmith. Under this system apprentices either succeed their Masters or open their own studios, often facing unique challenges in identifying their own styles. By contrast American jewelers trained in Art programs in the University system are taught to develop their creative process and focus on unique concepts and ideas from the beginning.



Barbara Heinrich



Michael Good



Michael Zobel

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continued



So Young Park

Stephen LeBlanc

Ayesha Mayadas

Christian Streit

Liaung-Chung Yen

Juha Koskela

While the philosophies of the European and American systems differ, the jewelry itself is equally engaging. The European studio featured, Atelier Zobel, was founded by Michael Zobel in 1974 in Konstanz Germany after Zobel finished his own apprenticeship. Over 35 years of workshop creativity has taken place, with Zobel's very strong style of texturizing gold and silver and using bold dramatic gemstones, setting the tone for the work and the apprentices. The exhibition of work by his apprentices – including Peter Schmid who is now the Atelier's owner – shows their development of jewelry in this style as an ongoing creative project of all the goldsmiths in the atelier. For those apprentices who have opened their own studios since, the exhibition illuminates a journey from Zobel-inspired to individually conceived and developed work. Interestingly, the most successful jewelers from this studio have developed strongly differentiated styles, often sculptural, to express their own vision.

The American studios of Michael Good and Barbara Heinrich show a similar evolution of style. Michael Good is the champion and teacher of a technique known as anticlastic-raising – a specialized way of forging gold into three-dimensional forms that are light in weight and abstract in form. While the technique itself visually defines many of its creations, Michael Good's former apprentices and helpers have manipulated it to express their own forms.

Barbara Heinrich, trained herself in Germany, has maintained in her American studio an ongoing commitment to hiring and sponsoring young goldsmiths and graduates of metals program. Her focus is not only on the metal, but on the holistic experience of an artist's studio: working as a group, learning techniques, marketing and pricing, and working with clients. The exhibition includes work from three of her former apprentices, each quite distinctive from the other.

The apprentices participating in the exhibition are:

Britt Anderson/ United States • Jordan Barnett-Parker/ United States • Sabine Dessarps/ Switzerland • Claudia Geiger/ Germany • Insa Grotefendt/ Germany • Regina Hiestand/ Germany • Juha Koskela/ Finland • Stephen LeBlanc/ United States • Ayesha Mayadas/ United States • So Young Park/ United States • Peter Schmid/ Germany • Simon Spinoly/ Germany • Christian Streit/ Germany • Liz Tyler/ United States • Liaung-Chung Yen/ United States

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