

# snow farm

THE NEW ENGLAND CRAFT PROGRAM

5 Clary Road · Williamsburg, Massachusetts · 413-268-3101 · snowfarm.org



## **Workshop Information and Student Supply List**

**Workshop: The Forged Ring with Nicholas Downing**

**Date: June 9-15, 2019**

**Studio Location: Jewelry and Metalsmithing Studio**

### Workshop Description:

A century ago, metalsmiths used raw materials from coins, scrap, or native ore. In remote areas of the world, craftspeople still create beautiful jewelry with very little equipment. In this class, students will use time-honored techniques that reduce metalsmithing to its most elemental. Students will cast their own ingots from grain or scrap, then forge, file and polish them into unique and beautiful rings.

### Supply Information:

Your supply fee includes two ounces of fine silver casting grain, hardwood blocks, plus basic studio consumables such as sandpaper, flux and solder. In addition, your instructor requests that you bring:

- Any favorite tools that you would like to work with (optional)
- A sketchbook or notebook and favorite drawing or writing utensils (optional)
- Any of your own fine silver casting grain (optional)
- An apron, smock and/or clothes you don't mind getting messy (Snow Farm aprons are available for sale)

### Additional Material Information:

In addition to any silver covered by your supply fee, a limited variety and quantity of sterling silver stock is typically available for purchase at current market price. Please ask your instructor for details.

### Important Safety Guidelines for the Jewelry and Metalsmithing Studio:

Proper attire:

- No open-toe shoes

Please also bring the following safety gear:

- Pair of clear safety glasses (Snow Farm has basic safety glasses but you may be more comfortable if you bring your own)
- Hair tie to tie back long hair

### Open Studio Guidelines for the Jewelry and Metalsmithing Studio:

Open studio is available 24 hours per day throughout your workshop. Instructors will outline safety guidelines for students who are staying to work, including any tools that should not be used without the instructor present. We suggest *bringing a cell phone in case an emergency arises and you need to contact the on-site coordinator*. Please also note the following guidelines:

- There is to be no consumption of drugs or alcohol in the studios, nor shall students work with studio equipment when under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- There is to be no torch work without the instructor or another student present. Students wanting to work on the torch without the instructor present must be approved by instructor.
- The last person in any studio is responsible for turning off indoor lights and closing the doors.

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Instructor Info:

Email: [downingarts@gmail.com](mailto:downingarts@gmail.com)

Website: <https://downingarts.com/home.html>

Bio:

Nicholas Downing has been forging iron in some capacity for over half of his life. He first tried blacksmithing in a middle school industrial arts class and he has been accumulating equipment and knowledge ever since. Nicholas is a graduate of the University of Southern Maine where he studied Sculpture and Art History. He has attended classes at the Landis Valley Museum in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine, the Maine College of Art in Portland, Maine, and the New England School of Metalwork in Auburn, Maine. He works as a studio technician, jeweler and blacksmith and teaches and demonstrates in and around New England.