

Material Play



8.28.2026 - 10.10.2026

MPC Gallery

Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street, Monterey, CA 93940

Exhibition

In response to the rising cost of silver, this exhibition invites artists to reconsider value, material hierarchy, and access in contemporary metalsmithing. Rather than centering on precious metal scarcity, the exhibition celebrates ingenuity, process, and material fluency across alternative media.

The exhibition levels the playing field by providing all participating artists with the same materials through a required kit, which also functions as the exhibition registration fee. Partial proceeds from both kit sales and artwork sales will benefit MBMAG and the Monterey Peninsula College Jewelry and Metal Arts Department Trust, allowing the exhibition to serve as a fundraiser that directly supports the local metals and jewelry community.

Theme

Material Play invites students from Monterey Peninsula College, Cabrillo College, San José State University, Creator Haven, and MBMAG guild members to approach making with curiosity, experimentation, and openness. The exhibition celebrates the joy of working directly with materials, testing limits, combining the unexpected, and allowing process to guide outcome.

All participating artists will begin with a shared material kit that serves as both exhibition registration and a creative starting point. From this common foundation, artists are encouraged to transform and reimagine the materials in ways that reflect their individual practices. By leveling the starting conditions for all participants, *Material Play* creates space for innovation, risk-taking, and thoughtful material exploration across experience levels.

Instructions

All submitted work must be created specifically for the *Material Play* exhibition. Artists may submit **up to three pieces**. Work does not need to be for sale, though artists may choose to offer their work for purchase.

At least 80% of the finished work must utilize materials provided in the shared exhibition kit. Additional alternative materials are encouraged, and artists are welcome to supplement the kit with materials that support their ideas, processes, and personal making practices. The goal is exploration and experimentation, and artists are invited to transform and combine materials in ways that feel authentic to their work.

The exhibition is not juried, and participation is open to artists of all experience levels. When artwork is sold, proceeds will be split 80/20: 80% to the artist, 10% to the Monterey Peninsula College Jewelry and Metal Arts Department Trust, and 10% to MBMAG.

Submission Procedure

All registration for *Material Play* must be completed through the MBMAG website.

To participate in the exhibition, artists must complete online registration and purchase an exhibition kit by May 31, 2026. Upon registration, participants will receive a confirmation email, followed by an Exhibition Guidelines email with detailed information regarding timelines, installation, delivery of finished work, and key exhibition policies.

Material kits will be available for pickup beginning April 27, 2026, at Monterey Peninsula College, Cabrillo College, and Creator Haven. Kits may also be shipped for an additional fee. Artists who require shipping should email exhibits@mbmag.org after completing registration to arrange shipment.

Artists will be provided with a submission form to accompany the final artwork, including the title, dimensions, materials, and retail price if the work is offered for sale.

If artists would like their work to be considered for inclusion in the exhibition promotional materials, a high-quality image, minimum 300 dpi, JPEG format must be

submitted via email no later than July 22, 2026. Detailed submission instructions and the designated upload link will be provided in the Exhibition Guidelines email following registration.

Shipping Artwork

Artists who can't deliver their work in person are welcome to ship it. Pieces must arrive before August 15, 2026. Artists cover all shipping costs and should include a prepaid return label and tracking information. Please email exhibits@mbmag.org to coordinate shipping. While MBMAG can't be responsible for damage or loss during shipping, we encourage artists to insure their work.

Entry Fees

The exhibition material kit is **\$25** and serves as the exhibition registration fee for *Material Play*. Partial proceeds from kit sales support MBMAG.

Artists may submit **up to three pieces** for consideration. Artwork does not need to be for sale. When artwork is sold, proceeds are split 80/20: 80% to the artist, 10% to the Monterey Peninsula College Jewelry and Metal Arts Trust, and 10% to MBMAG.

Important Dates

Registration Deadline:

May 31, 2026

Material Kit Pickup Begins:

April 27, 2026

Pick-up locations include Monterey Peninsula College, Cabrillo College, and Creator Haven. Shipping is available for an additional fee.

Deadline to Submit Images for Postcard/Promotional Use:

July 22, 2026

In-Person Drop-Off Date for Finished Artwork & Form:

August 15, 2026

12:00–2:00 PM at Monterey Peninsula College

Additional drop-off details and alternative arrangements will be provided in the Exhibition Guidelines email.

Exhibition Dates:

August 28, 2026 – October 10, 2026

Opening Reception:

August 28, 2026

4:00–6:00 PM

Gallery Hours:

The MPC Gallery is not regularly staffed. During the exhibition period, the gallery will be open to the public on Saturdays from 1:00–3:00 PM, staffed by students participating for extra credit or MBMAG Volunteers or by appointment.

Artwork Pick-Up Date:

October 17, 2026

12:00–2:00 PM

Pickup details and alternative arrangements will be provided in the Exhibition Guidelines email.