

Building On The Body

Jewelry, Materials, Identity



Karen-Ann Dicken, *Degree*

Curated by Erin Rappleye
August 2 - September 22

108 CONTEMPORARY

Art. Craft. Design.

Building on the Body features the work of fifteen different contemporary artists whose jewelry merges material and identity in the context of architecture and the spaces around us.



What does this mean? Glad you asked...

Demi Thomloudis, *Brooch*

What makes this exhibition unique is that these artists have swapped out many of the traditional jewelry-making materials (gems, gold and silver, pearls) in favor of industrial and found materials such as concrete, wood, cardboard, as well as found objects.

They also looked to urban environments for inspiration. You'll see reflections of stairs, highways, and even bridges in their craft.



Motoko Furuhashi, *Brooch*

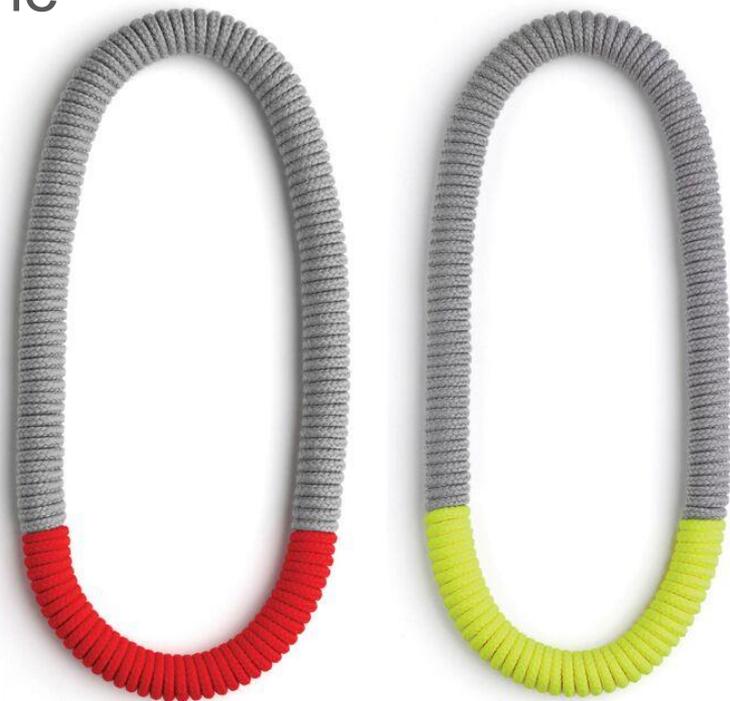


Each piece of jewelry is a work of fine craft on its own. However, they are designed to complement the “architecture” of the human form. We can be both the landscape on which the jewelry is built, *and* a building whose lines and angles are highlighted by the accessories we choose to wear.

Rather than precious material, these pieces find their value in their ability to hold and convey memory, place, and experience. This intrinsic value and the creative choices of both material and form speak to various facets in the identities of each artist.



Ritsuko Ogura, *Untitled*



Eleanor Bolton, *Cold Flash*

The curator, Erin Rappleye, asks the question:

“What is jewelry?”

Does it have to be worn on a human body or can it exist elsewhere?

Can a pothole wear jewelry?



Motoko Furuhashi, *Urban Detail*

What do you think?



Motoko Furuhashi,
N Broadway Ave
Urbana IL

Build a Brooch

Use an unconventional mix of materials to make an elaborate pin!



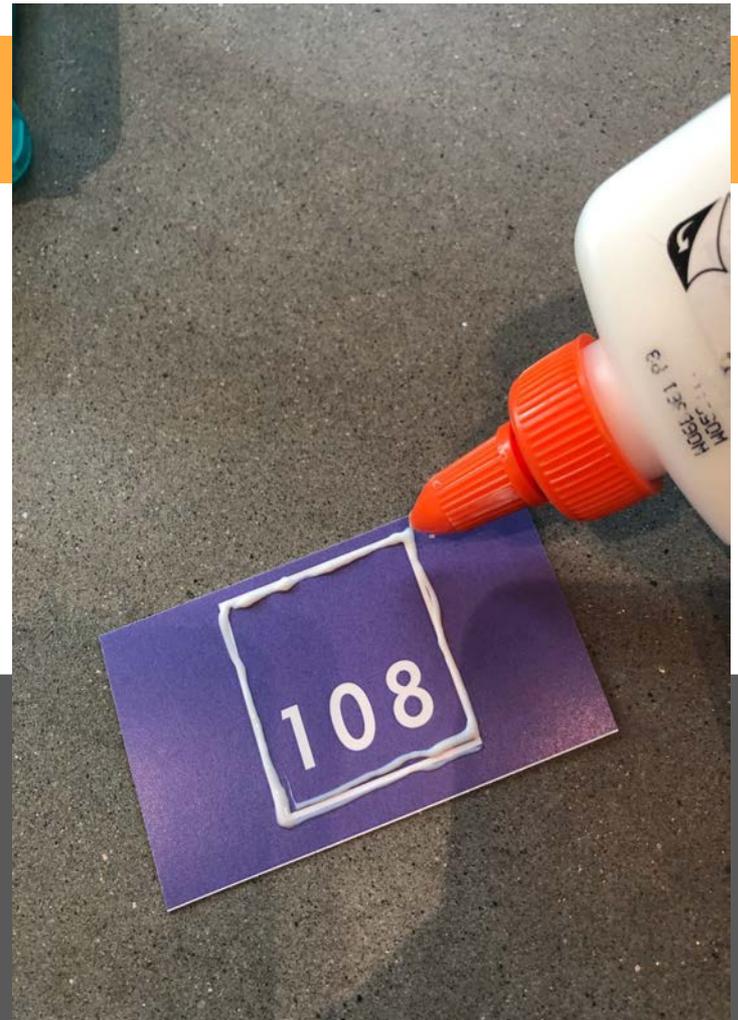
Step 1

- Gather supplies.
- Glue, tape, and scissors are all helpful tools that you can find around your home or classroom.
- Add your own materials! Bottle caps, fabric scraps, or natural materials like twigs and pebbles can tell a story about where you live or what you like.



Step 2

- Use your imagination and the materials provided to create your own design!
- The next images are of the process we used to make a 108-themed pin.



Our Process

We used a leftover business card for our base and to share our identity.



Next we added yarn and beads. At the bottom of this image you can see some other designs we tried.

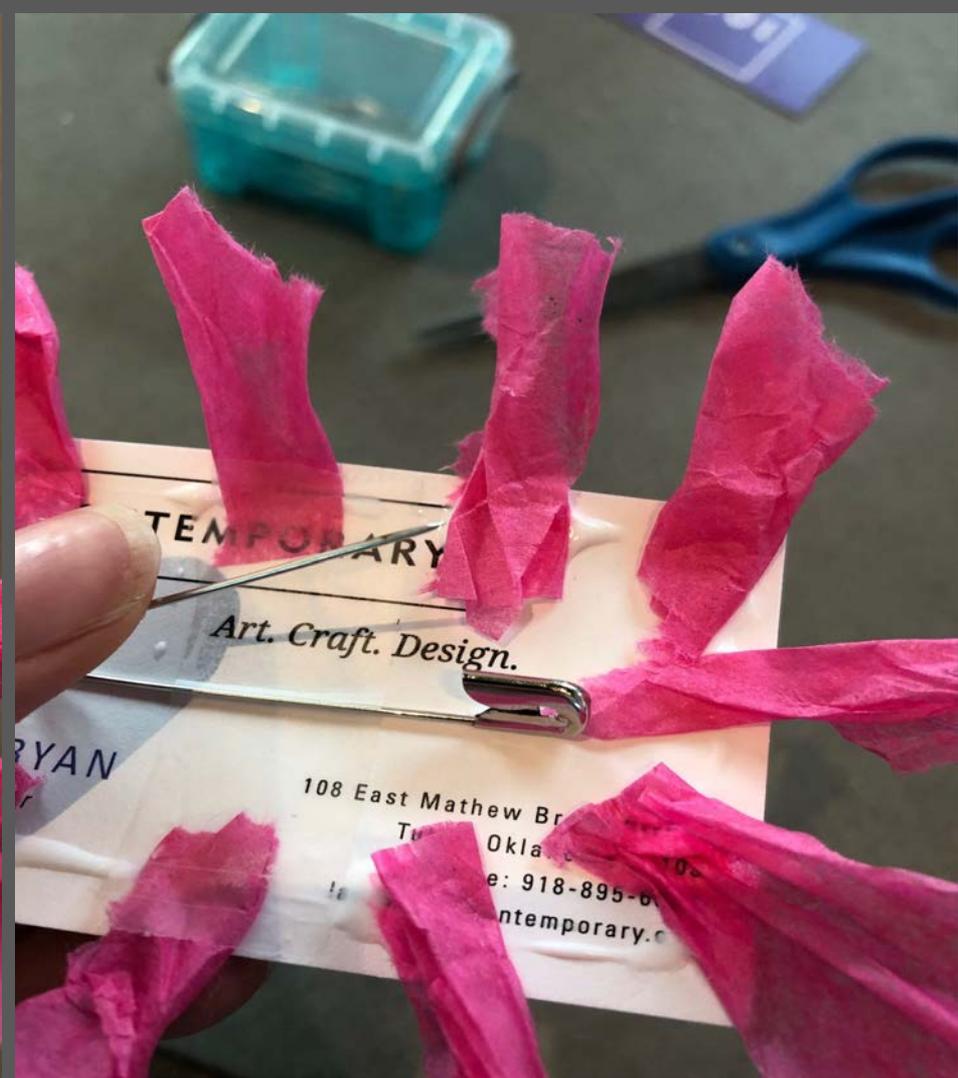


We added to the card until we were satisfied with the final design!



Step 3

- Attach the safety pin to the back of the card. Note: tape works better than glue.
- Make sure that the sharp point is facing away from the paper so you can pin it to clothes or tote bags.
- Click on the next slide to see how we attached our pin!



Voila!

- Pin it to your clothes for some fine craft fashion!



Participating Artists

Eleanor Bolton

Federica Sala

Karen-Ann Dicken

Caitie Sellers

Kat Cole

Jiri Sibor

Motoko Furuhashi

Demitra Thomloudis

Yong Joo Kim

Jess Tolbert

Sharon Massey

Julia Turner

Tiff Massey

Kee-Ho Yuen

Ritsuko Ogura

Additional Resources

- Find more information about the Building of the Body exhibition at <https://108contemporary.org/>
- Watch a short documentary of Karen-Ann Dickens' "Dream World" jewelry [here](#).
- See how [Tiff Massey](#) uses sculpture in public spaces and on the human body.
- Read about the [process and motivation](#) behind Caitie Sellers' work.