

News Release

Tributaries artist honors the 5,000-year-old tradition of granulation

Ben Dory's exhibition will be on display from December 12, 2020 to March 6, 2021



Ben Dory, *Medusa*, 2020. Stainless, monel, fine silver, 24K gold. 4.5" x 3" x 1.5". Photo courtesy of the artist.

MEMPHIS (November 11, 2020) – The Metal Museum is pleased to announce *Tributaries: Ben Dory*, the next in an installment of exhibitions that highlights emerging and mid-career artists in the metals field.

Ben Dory is an artist and metalsmith originally from Kansas City, KS. He holds a BFA in Metalsmithing/Jewelry from the University of Kansas and an MFA in Metalsmithing from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. His latest body of work pays homage to traditional granulation, an ancient and intricate technique of fusing primarily gold spheres. While traditional granulation involves precious metals and the use of metallic and non-metallic solders, Ben Dory has pioneered his own method of stainless-steel granulation using a small vacuum tube and micro welding. He uses a modular, methodical approach to construct brooches, necklaces, and rings from precious and non-precious metals. For centuries, the granulation technique has been revered for its complex beauty and ancient mystery. Granulated objects convey the ongoing power of repeated minutiae: the captivation (and useful) qualities of pattern and patterning.

“Reflecting on patterns as repeated systems, granulation is akin to representing molecular structures using a stick and ball model. Simplistic yet descriptive, stainless granulation is a way for me to recognize craft history while reflecting on the complexity of systems that surround me.

–Ben Dory

Event Details:

Tributaries: Ben Dory | Kissing Numbers opens on Saturday, December 12, 2020 and closes on Saturday, March 6, 2021. A virtual gallery talk and demonstration with the artist will take place on Sunday, January 17, starting at 2pm. The reception is free and [pre-registration is required here](#).

About the Tributaries Series

The *Tributaries* exhibition series began in 2008 with the goal of supporting emerging and mid-career metal artists with solo exhibitions at the Museum. With over 40 *Tributaries* exhibitions completed or in the planning process, the Museum has celebrated some of the most talented artists who are beginning to shape the metals field today. The Metal Museum actively collects the work of these artists to document the early and evolving stages of their careers.

About the Metal Museum

The Metal Museum is the only institution in the United States devoted exclusively to the preservation, promotion, and advancement of the art and craft of fine metalwork. This mission is achieved through four primary program areas – exhibitions, collections, studio practice, and community education and engagement. Programs are facilitated on the Museum grounds and at locations across the Mid-South. Located on 3.2 acres of historic property overlooking the Mississippi River, the Museum grounds include the main Museum building as well as the Metalworking Facilities, Library + Resource Center, and private artist residences. Learn more about the Museum and its programs by visiting our website at metalmuseum.org.

The Museum receives operating support from ArtsMemphis and the Tennessee Arts Commission. Programming support is received from Hyde Family Foundations, the Windgate Charitable Foundation, and hundreds of corporate, foundation, and individual supporters.

High-resolution images of artwork are available upon request. Please contact Kim Ward, Marketing Manager for the Metal Museum, at (901) 774-6380 or kimward@metalmuseum.org