

# HEATHER BAYLESS

[www.heatherbayless.com](http://www.heatherbayless.com)



Heather Bayless  
Hanging Nest, 2013  
Sterling silver  
Photo courtesy of the artist.

## ARTIST STATEMENT

*My most recent works are from the concept of instinct, and in particular focus on animal behaviors such as migration and Nesting, the series in which I am currently working. I am fascinated by birds' inherent knowledge of not only where to build for safety and stability, but especially how to make their complex structures without guidance. They somehow know—through instinct. Buildings, bridges, and telephone poles are adorned with nests in the summer. Nests are squeezed into human-made spaces, and when removed they have the distinct forms of human structure imposed upon them. It is as though human features have become a new nature, and some birds now depend on our architecture in order to thrive so abundantly. I play with this idea by building nests on humans in the form of jewelry. This work also explores themes of fertility, family, and home. The use of silver for these pieces helps preserve the form of these usually ephemeral but precious objects: something that is discarded or ignored after use, but is so crucial when being used, can be celebrated permanently by building it from metal.*

METAL  
MUSEUM