

REBECCA ZINK

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Rebecca Zink
Broken, 2016
Mild steel, broken sterling silver
Photo courtesy of the artist.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I challenge the idea of value by bringing blue-collar materials into the jewelry realm. By highlighting them against materials considered to be more valuable, I reveal their beauty that is not usually seen. White silver is juxtaposed against black steel to create a contrast of color and texture, and to place steel in its rightful spot in a position of value. The beauty of the stringy wrought iron with its texture of splintered wood shines over the sleek yellow gold it is paired with. Silver is cut to create a jagged dramatic edge with a plasma cutter and is paired with polished steel to swap the ways the materials are addressed. Brightly colored gold is used as the glue to hold rhythmic pieces of steel together. Through the juxtapositions and the nontraditional treatment of materials, I create a dialogue that rivals the beauty and value seen in any jewelry store. While you might not ever see polished steel or stringy wrought iron in the fancy jewelry store cases, my work highlights the beauty that does exist in these blue-collar materials. I create a desire for materials not otherwise considered in the jewelry industry, and I show the viewer that value indeed lies with the wearer.

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