



## hello in 2010

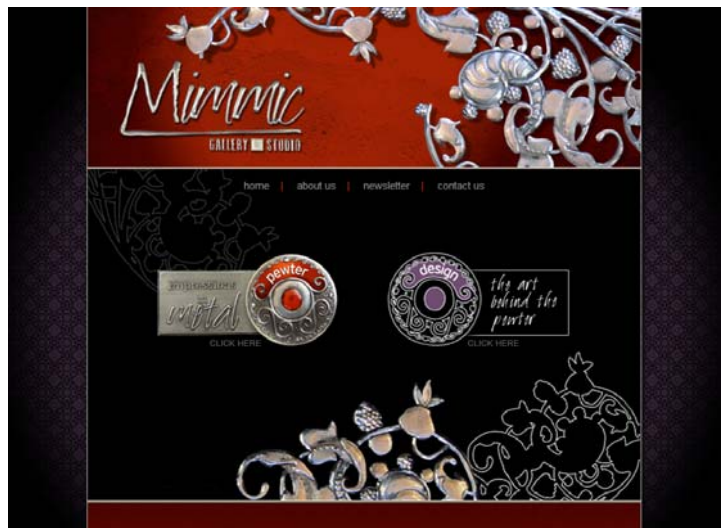
It was never our intention to leave our clients and students without a newsletter for so long, but as usual when you get so hopelessly involved with exciting things time just flies by! We have been so engrossed with new stencils, new web sites, new packaging, Hobby-X at the Dome and Michelle and Tyrone's house renovations. We have not stopped and to smell the roses for weeks and weeks. We hope this newsletter finds you well and life is treating you great! The newsletter is filled with a hoard of info, we hope you enjoy reading it and we look forward to meeting some of you at one of the many workshops or classes available .

## mimmic's new look

Mimmic has gone through a huge face lift! We have revamped our website and re-designed our packaging. We love the new look and hope all of you will too! We have split Mimmic into two departments, the design



and laser cutting side of things and of course the pewter side. The website is



also split in to these two departments. The design section is still very new and will grow as and when we find time to put all our exciting ideas into practise. The pewter side of things is thriving more than ever and is very exciting for us to see a whole new interest in this wonderful ancient craft!



## hobby-X

**H**obby-X came and went in a flash of exhaustion and fun. It is quite amazing to sit at the expo and watch the tens of thousands of people strolling along the corridors all with the same intention of finding something creative to do. Whether attempting to increase their earning capacity by creating finished sellable goods, or keeping their minds sane from this stressful upside down world we live in or merely as a creative outlet, we believe each and every person at Hobby-X had a similar aspiration!



Since the expo we have been inundated with requests for newsletters, starter kits, workshops and classes. This past week Michelle has been capturing the hundreds of email addresses and answering telephone requests by the masses. It is very clear that pewter has become an incredibly sort after hobby and people are so taken aback at the high quality finished products achieved by the simple process followed. We are also thrilled at the amount of men that have taken up the craft especially the wood turning fraternity who wish to include insets of pewter into their beautifully turned bowls.

At this point we must welcome all the new clients and students from the expo that have joined our creative family. We did warn you that Pewter work is very addictive and we are sure those that bought kits and have started dabbling have already fallen in love with this amazing art-form!

## stencils

**T**he new stencil range has been on the shelves for a while now! Long hours of thought and intense design went into these stencils in order to produce a range of practical, fun designs with a broad range of design topics. Remember that although these stencils have been designed for work with sheet pewter, they, like any other stencil have an enormous scope of use



in other creative aspects for example in cake icing, decor, wall decor, paper crafts, scrapbooking, clay, ceramics, porcelain, etc. The range is made up of 6 designs of each of the following themes, Objects, Borders, Backgrounds, Style and Texture. The plan is to introduce more themes in the near future. These will include alphabets, wording, long border designs and numerous other exciting ideas that are in the pipeline.

The stencils are cut from a very durable stencil material and are unbelievably easy to use.

Place the stencil in position on the front of your pewter (before you have raised any areas) tape into place with masking tape. From the Back (on a hard surface) rub firmly with paper stub to stretch the pewter into the cut-out shapes.

The shapes can be defined with a large or fine pointed Teflon tip tool. The flat Teflon chisel tip is great to smooth shapes or backgrounds. Experiment with different tools to see which gives you the best finish.

The stencils in this range are all 15cm x 15cm. These designs fit beautifully on the gift box from our wooden box range. We have made a 'leather' stencil in the texture range which is very similar to the Fiskar's leather embossing sheet which is not available anymore, we know there are hoards of you that will be thrilled with this as you have been waiting so patiently for it!

## beginner workshops

The Beginner Workshop is an intensive hands on workshop. The price includes:

Starter Kit:

- Impressions in Metal - Instruction & Design Book
- 1/4 m pewter
- 13 Imported Tools
- 2 Paper Stubs
- Consumables - Lubricator, Cleaner, Patina & Polish
- Mug of wax plus dropper
- Felt, polish cloth, fibre & gloves

A6 Book (Morning project)

Business Card Box (Afternoon Project)

Coffee, tea, morning muffins, and lunch

Content of course:



In the morning you will complete a book cover, learning low relief, high relief, various other techniques and understanding the full process of pewter repoussé.

After lunch you will create an intermediate project, which will contain various extra skills, techniques and tool use.

At the close of the workshop you will be equipped (with tools and knowledge!) to begin the addictive, creative journey of pewter repoussé. PLUS you will be homeward bound with two stunning completed items to show friends and family!

Please remember when booking for your beginner workshop, should you have bought a beginner kit prior to the workshop, that you make note of this on the form. The cost of this beginner kit (R850) will be deducted from the cost of the course.

**COST: R1500** inclusive of kit **OR R650** if you have purchased the kit prior to the workshop.

## morning beginner workshops

Midweek beginner morning workshops are held at our studio. This beginner workshop which is from 9-12am, teaches students the basic understanding of pewter repoussé. The workshop includes the beginner kit an A6 handbag book (which will be covered in pewter), patterns, hands on intensive instruction and something delicious served with mid morning tea!

A creative relaxed and fun workshop with hoards of intense hands-on instruction that will leave you ready to take on the world of pewter!

**COST: R1150** inclusive of kit **OR R300** if you have purchased the kit prior to the workshop

## weekly classes

*Tuesday or Wednesday mornings*

Our weekly morning classes are held in our studio where students work at their own pace on their own projects under our watchful eye and helping hand. The classes are relaxed and fun. In this environment creativity flows freely. The coffee/tea is on tap and there always seems to be someone willing to fatten the class up with cake or eats. Friendships are formed and networks are developed. These classes are very social



and a hoard of fun while still maintaining a high standard of creativity. Booking in advance for these classes is necessary as they fill up very quickly. Bring your kit, tools and whatever you are working on. ***(Tuesday Classes will begin on the 13th April)***

**COST: R120** 9am -12noon

## face workshop

*30 March 2010 Morning 9am – 12noon.*

Learn to cope with faces, understanding the logics of a realistic look. Once you have mastered a face you can tackle anything in pewter. Learn the basic step by step approach to completing a face. Mount the completed face and set inside a beautiful frame. Take home a completed FRAMED pewter work created by yourself for the price of a boring framed photo, as well as the knowledge gained to be able to create many beautiful pewter faces thereafter!



*A very important technique workshop! Level: Intermediate.*

Cost includes mount board, frame and relevant patterns & something delicious for tea. Bring your tool kit and pewter or purchase at the studio.

**COST: R340**

## creative workshop

22 APRIL 2010 Morning 9am – 12noon.

An exceptionally creative and fun workshop. Filled with many important techniques. Work with stencils, cut out shapes and wording, add in some surprise objects perhaps some cutout work or even colour. Cover a gorgeous square high quality journal book with a touch of your soul.

*A light hearted creative workshop!* Level: Intermediate.

Cost includes 2 stencils, cut out shapes, square journal book, packet of surprise objects, quotes & words.& something delicious for tea. Bring your tool kit and pewter or purchase at the studio.

**COST: R340**



## dress workshop



8 APRIL 2010 Morning 9am – 12noon.

Create a realistic 3D sculpture pewter dress, hanging on a coat hanger, mounted onto mount board and framed in a beautiful frame ready to hang on your wall. Take home a completed FRAMED pewter work of art created by yourself for the price of a boring framed photo, as well as the knowledge gained to be able to create many beautiful pewter sculptured items thereafter!

*A very important technique workshop!* Intermediate.

Cost includes pattern, frame, mount board, instruction, coat hanger hook, fabric rose & something delicious for tea. Bring your tool kit and pewter or purchase at the studio.

**COST: R340**

## teachers workshop

Mary Ann has seen the urgent necessity for offering teachers **'teaching workshops'**. Whether you are teaching from a studio or own a craft shop stocking pewter and relevant pewter tools, it is imperative that leaders in the field be equipped with the correct knowledge and strong teaching skills to maintain a high standard of work that the art of pewter repoussé deserves, the pewter itself as a medium deserves the respect from the craftsman working with it as well. This course is an intense hands-on CERTIFICATE workshop covering all aspects of teaching this art form. It covers the logics of the teaching studio, tools, design, history, teaching etiquette, copyright and advance pewter techniques to name but a few.

There will be a choice of dates available for this course as the interest has already been huge. Please email Michelle expressing your interest and whether mid-week or Saturday would be your preference. Michelle will liaise with you as to available dates and will send you detailed course information. If you are from out of town and would need accommodation, details, or info please request this from Michelle. We will endeavour to put a suitable package together to fulfil your requirements.

INTEREST IN TEACHING WORKSHOP: please complete the attached form. (This is not a booking form) It is purely an information form in order for us to set dates to suite your requirements. Please feel free to add any other info or questions that may help us to cater for your needs.

*Please note: Frames and items made in workshops may vary. Photos are purely a guideline.*

## just a thought...

**P**aging through a bead and jewellery magazine the other day, I came across these wonderful words by Oscar Wilde, which inspired me to write the article below. These words are absolutely wonderful and thought provoking. ENJOY.

*While one should always study the method of a great artist,  
one should never imitate his manner.*

*The manner of an artist is essentially individual, the method of an artist  
is absolutely universal.*

*The first is personality, which no one should copy; the second is perfection,  
which all should aim at.*

Oscar Wilde (1854—1900)

## a bit of info concerning copyright...

**T**he issues pertaining to copyright designs and websites are continually a topic of conversation in classes. Students are never sure if they can use someone else's designs or pictures for replicating in pewter and if they get a design off the net can they use this and sell the pewter work with this design on it.

There is a difference between 'stealing' someone else's design or concept and being inspired by the same design, but using it to create something of your own. You will always be safe if using designs that are freely available to the art and craft industry such as those in my book 'Impressions in metal'. These designs are created for use in any art medium and the only stipulation (written in the beginning of the book) is that the design should not be mass produced for large orders and of course the designs may not be photocopied or reprinted for other publications being books, teaching manuals etc. Clip Art is available abundantly on the net and is also a good choice when looking for designs.

The main problem with copyright designs or design source is when a design is used that has been created by an artist who is still living! This is a no go area. The big problem in the craft industry

is simply crafters are not generally artists and in order to create a quick pretty pewter design on a box, the average crafter has to photocopy a design due to the lack of artistic ability to draw their own design. There is absolutely no problem with this other than the crafter MUST be aware when looking for designs that they may possibly replicate a design that is someone's work of art.

The same issue has become huge on the internet. It is so very easy to make a website to display your "goods", BUT it is even easier to copy and paste from other people's websites onto your own. Historically we would sit in a library for hours or days sourcing material for projects etc. we would have to photocopy this info or rent the book for a week to copy extracts from the book. Now, in a matter of minutes you can download from the net hoards of pictures, photos or information on any topic or theme. The problem here is quite simple, people have lost the ability to understand that this information actually belongs to someone else and if the website does not explicitly say you may help yourself to the information or pictures, it actually isn't available for your taking.

Whilst you are making gifts for friends and family and selling the odd pewter design here and there it is not a great crisis if you are 'making use' of designs that belong to others because of the nature of the pewter work. When a design is complete it is quite difficult to recognise it from the 'flat' or 2D drawing. The problem becomes an issue when you are doing large orders or creating designs for well known companies, this is when I believe it is exceptionally important to be able to create your own design. If you are working at this level you should have the ability to design as well as create.

My best advice would be to respect your fellow artists/creators and always ask yourself if this design in question were yours and someone was using it as their own how would you react .

thank you...

**A**s always, it is not possible to put your life and soul into your work and dreams without having to rely on those people who surround you, either with their love, their support or their friendship or just because they make you laugh!

Both of us have been blessed with an abundance of these wonderful people who surround us on a daily basis. When a seriously exhausting event like Hobby-X comes to an end and you sit quietly in a corner and take stock of how on earth you made it through the hectic schedule, you very quickly realise it was only through the support of these special people.

HUGE BIG THANK YOU'S go to:

**MATTHEW** - Thank you for carrying, cooking, storing, and putting up with grumpy me (MIM) when I just couldn't smile any more. Thank You for loving, protecting and spoiling MIM.

**TYRONE** - (Salesman of the year award!) Thank You for giving up an entire weekend and many, many nights to package, label, carry and sell for Mimmic. Thank you for loving, protecting and spoiling MIC .

**JOHN & SIM** - for storing, packaging and delivering to the Dome. You rescued us big time! And of course the Sunday evening break down and removal which is always so horrid! Thank you, Thank you.

**TARRYN** (hot on Tyrone's heels as top saleslady!) Always available to help pack, create, carry, sell and even put husband Rob to work for Mimmic. You have been a star! Thank you.

**PATRICK & CRAIGCOR** - for the use of the van and deliveries and collections on so many occasions.

**GRAHAM** – Thank you for playing delivery man in your brand new “TRUCK”.

**KELLY** - Thank you for labelling and packaging and always offering your services.

**OUMA ANNA** - at 83 and still capable of working as hard as us, (with a smile and no moans!) thanks for the cutting, folding, rolling and caring!

To each and every student, client, friend or family member who sent good wishes, visited us at the show, or showed an interest in our well being, thank you for caring. You all helped to make our time at Hobby-X a huge success.

## studio hours

Our studio hours are as follows:

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 - 16:00

Friday: 8:00 - 15:30

***Please note the studio will be closed on Thursday 1st April for the Easter weekend and will re-open on Wednesday the 7th April.***

Please complete the booking form with all your details and clearly mark which workshop you are booking for. If you require any further information feel free to contact us.

Take care!

*Mim and Mic*

MIMMIC Gallery & Studio reserve the right to change dates, prices and content of workshops, classes and tools at their discretion. To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#). Questions or comments? E-mail us at [info@mimmic.co.za](mailto:info@mimmic.co.za)

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2007

“Creating is our work...  
our passion...  
our life-long obsession.”

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