

## Fused Argentium Silver Earrings

**Teacher:** Vaughn Millner ([vaughnmillner@yahoo.com](mailto:vaughnmillner@yahoo.com))

**Sessions preferred:** Saturday am and Saturday pm

**Maximum students:** 9



### Project Description:

Create dynamic patterns by fusing argentium silver. In this class, we will focus on two processes: fusing and working with the properties of argentium. We will melt argentium silver to form patterns and fuse them to an articulated argentium backplate.

Processes in this class will include designing, doming, fusing, sanding, finishing, applying a patina, and making earwires. In-depth demos and techniques will be shown. Improve your skills, add value, and get comfortable with working with argentium silver, the silver that resists tarnishing.

Argentium silver contains a higher amount of pure silver than sterling silver. Argentium alloys replace the sterling alloy of copper with a metal called germanium. Argentium silver is tarnish resistant, has a whiter color, and contains both antibacterial and hypoallergenic properties. Moreover, it resists firestain when heated – unlike sterling silver.

### Steps:

1. Create your design on graph paper.
2. Cut argentium wires and ball the ends with a torch.  
Hammer the ends.
3. Arrange the wires in a desirable pattern on your argentium discs.
4. Fuse the argentium wires to the argentium shapes.
5. Punch a hole in each earring for the earwire.
6. Create a ball for the end of each earwire and shape. Thread the earwire through the disc.
7. Sand, polish, and finish the pieces. Apply a patina, if desired.

**Bring:** Eyeglasses if needed or magnifying glasses. Wear closed toed shoes and preferably long pants.

**Class/Supply Fee:** \$50.00 for argentium sheet, argentium wire,

use of tools, and torches.

**Instructor:**

Vaughn Millner is a metalsmith and metalsmith instructor. She has taught at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, Georgia for approximately 20 years. She also teaches at the Mobile Museum of Art in Mobile, Alabama and Dauphin Island Gallery/Heritage Center in Dauphin Island, Alabama. Vaughn also teaches at her home studio on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Contact Vaughn with any questions at [vaughnmillner@yahoo.com](mailto:vaughnmillner@yahoo.com).