



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Baltimore Jewelry Center
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Don't know what to do with your old, unwanted jewelry? How about a Radical Jewelry Makeover!

Radical Jewelry Makeover (RJM) students and professionals from Baltimore Jewelry Center (BJC), Montgomery College (MC) and Towson University, are seeking donations of old unwanted jewelry for the community jewelry mining project happening this semester. Radical Jewelry Makeover, a project of the non-profit Ethical Metalsmiths, has been traveling nationally and internationally to communities since 2007 educating jewelers of all levels about mining and material sourcing issues involved in jewelry making through fun, fast paced or semester long projects. RJM encourages consideration of the social and environmental impacts of mining and jewelry and encourages re-consideration of our habits of consumption. Jewelry students from participating schools, and professionals from the regional community will be **transforming donations into radically fresh and responsible jewelry**. The project will culminate in an exhibition of these wearable creations displayed and for sale at the Baltimore Jewelry Center, November 10th–Jan 19th.

Those tangled chains, unmatched earrings and banged up bracelets sitting at the bottom of jewelry boxes around the Baltimore and Rockville area are exactly what jewelry artists participating in **Radical Jewelry Makeover: Baltimore** want to get their creative hands on. **Until September 3rd** Ethical Metalsmiths and The Baltimore Jewelry Center are accepting donations of old, unwanted jewelry at several locations (see complete list below). **Donors will receive discount coupons to apply toward the purchase of a new piece** and sales will benefit the Baltimore Jewelry Center and Ethical Metalsmiths' efforts to educate and connect people with responsibly sourced materials.

Radical Jewelry Makeover: Baltimore is built on the belief that all jewelry has intrinsic value and that jewelry is a powerful means of collecting and transmuting memories and narratives. By creating an egalitarian space around jewelry, we can increase connection, empathy, and understanding for both ourselves and others. Currently, materials used in jewelry production are sourced from some of the poorest countries in the world, sacred lands and disputed territories. Often this sourcing comes at a great

cost to the environment. In Baltimore and Rockville, RJM will bring together volunteer “miners,” who dig out and donate their old jewelry, with volunteer jewelers and students, working together as refiners and designers to collaborate on an exhibition of re-made jewelry. Radical Jewelry Makeover will offer an informed and creative alternative to traditional mining practices and jewelry production. **You can help by donating some of the smallest items in your home, jewelry, for reuse and recycling.**

Today, the EPA estimates that hard rock mining is the most toxic industry in the United States. Additionally, Earthworks reports that an estimated 80% of the gold mined each year is used for jewelry, and that a single gold ring leaves 20 tons of mine waste. Ethical Metalsmiths, an artist run non-profit organization seeks to galvanize mining reform efforts by staging an "alternative supply chain" and is working with The Baltimore Jewelry Center, Towson University, and Montgomery College, to bring their successful project, Radical Jewelry Makeover to Baltimore in the Fall of 2017.

HOW TO DONATE YOUR JEWELRY:

Collect all your unwanted or broken jewelry, be it gold, silver, plastic or anything between. Place it all in a zip lock bag **along with your filled-out donation form**. Jewelry can be sentimental, connecting you to potent memories and narratives. Tell us the story of your donation whether it be an individual piece or an entire bag! Include your story in the donation bag and bring it to a drop off location, or mail it in. (locations listed below)

It is very important that you include your donation form with your donation of any quality, quantity or material type. It is available for download or in print at the various donation drop-off locations. You can download the form <https://baltimorejewelrycenter.org/pages/radical-jewelry-makeover-baltimore>

Considering giving gold or silver? DO IT! Put that material back into the supply chain and give it new life!

RJM cannot appraise your donation nor can RJM provide tax-deduction documents. However, in exchange donors will receive a coupon for their donation, to be applied to the purchase of a new, radically fresh and responsibly made piece of jewelry. The value of the coupon is based on the donated material, with a maximum value of 50% off your new jewelry piece.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

- Drop-off Donations will be accepted now through September 3rd (drop of locations listed below).
- Jewelry students and professionals will transform the donations between September 7th and Nov. 1st.
- The exhibition at the Baltimore Jewelry Center will take place Nov. 10th – Jan 19th. There will be an opening reception Nov. 10th.
- For additional information about RJM: Baltimore events go to www.baltimorejewelrycenter.org

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

Baltimore Jewelry Center
10 E. North Ave., #130
Baltimore, MD 21202
hours: M,Tu,Th 1-10; W: 10-10;
F: 10-3; Sa, Su: 12-6

Walters Art Museum
600 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21202
hours: W-Su: 10-5pm

Towson University
Center for the Arts
Department of Art + Design
Suite 3103
Towson, MD 21252
call 410-704-2808 for hours

Towson Branch
Baltimore County Library
320 York Rd.
Towson, MD 21204
hours: M-Th: 9-9; F, Sa: 9-5:30
Su: 1-5

School 33 Art Center
1427 Light St.
Baltimore, MD 21230
hours: W-Sa: 11-4

MICA Store
(June 15-July 21)
1200 W. Mount Royal Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21217
hours: M-Sa: 9-5

Station North Tool Library
417 E. Oliver St.
Baltimore, MD 21202
hours: M-Th: 5-8; Sa, Su: 11-5

Montgomery College
Rockville Art Department
Paul Peck Art Building
51 Mannakee St./Art201
Rockville, MD 20850

VisArts
155 Gibbs St.
Rockville, MD 20850
3rd floor - admin offices
hours: M-Sa: 9-5

MAIL-IN DONATIONS CAN BE SENT ANYTIME:

- Mail to:
Baltimore Jewelry Center
ATTN: RJM
10 E. North Ave., #130
Baltimore, MD 21202

For More Information, please contact

- Baltimore Jewelry Center
Shane Prada
410-243-0479
info@baltimorejewelrycenter.org
- Rockville and Montgomery College inquiries:
Lucy Derickson
240-567-4419, Lucy.derickson@montgomerycollege.edu (email preferred)

About Ethical Metalsmiths

Ethical Metalsmiths is a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage social change that values jewelry made with ethically sourced materials. They do this by educating people about irresponsible mining, promoting transparency in jewelry supply chains and highlighting the collective efforts of jewelers actively changing their practices. *Ethical Metalsmiths' vision is a world in which people can create and enjoy jewelry made with materials from responsible sources that protect and sustain the earth, its peoples and cultures.* www.EthicalMetalsmiths.org



ETHICAL
METALSMITHS

Jewelers for Social and
Environmental Responsibility

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