

We are proud to present profiles of individuals who have been influential in promoting WDCC, Fine Craft, and the artists who produce it.

Here is one....

## Annette Hirsh

Annette Hirsh's life-long creative passion began at the tender age of 8. She recalls taking the streetcar alone to the Jewish Center in downtown Milwaukee, 'Back when it was safe for kids to be on their own', for her first art class. The only other student there was teenager Robert Bloch (famous for writing Psycho) who drew ancient wars while Annette preferred to paint scenes out of the window.

As a young adult, Annette honed her drawing and painting skills at Gimbels and Boston Store illustrating for their newspaper advertisements. She married and moved to Chicago where she was a fashion illustrator for a department store. Despite the atmosphere of war-time tension and dread, the counterpoint of living in a bustling, stimulating city as a young artist, left Annette with fond memories of her burgeoning artistic career.



Annette Hirsh at work

After the war, she and her husband Jules moved back to Milwaukee and spent every summer relaxing in Door County. There, Jules fished while Annette painted the bucolic terrain. She continued her landscape painting on their overseas travels where she drew cherished scenes in pen and ink then back at her hotel, enlivened them with vibrant watercolor paint.

Somewhere along the way, Annette took an interest in jewelry making. Her seminal metalsmithing classes were taken at Milwaukee State Teachers

*Wisconsin Designer Crafts Council*

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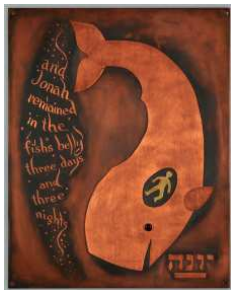
Larry Sanders presents Annette with a plaque in appreciation of her work as historian. Taken at the presentation of the WDCC scrapbook to the Museum of Wisconsin Art.

College (where one of her teachers was Elsa Ulbricht who was on WDCC's first board) and at Layton School of Art where she ambitiously practiced newly acquired techniques. With family encouragement and her son's help to build a centrifuge, Annette was well on her way to becoming a metalsmith.

As her interest in the arts grew, so did her support of fellow artists. Annette and Jules converted their custom drapery business showroom into a gallery to feature the work of local artists.

Annette is now an experienced and respected artist of sculpture, jewelry and Judaica. Of her extensive repertoire, the piece of which she is most proud is a Holocaust Memorial plaque, hanging in the sanctuary at the Milwaukee Jewish Home.

Work by Annette currently on exhibit in WDCC's Biennial Members exhibition at the Museum of Wisconsin Art.



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