

NEW & NOTABLE

BY KATE FOGARTY

This limited-edition champlevé I.M.A.G.I.N.E. pin was given to Kickstarter donors of \$75 or more. Created by Leslie W. LePere, based on Eric McManus's logo design, it was made by Charlie King of Sandy Parr.

BORIS BALLY'S DREAM OF PEACE BECOMES REALITY

The innovative "I.M.A.G.I.N.E. Peace Now" exhibition opens at Boston's Society of Arts & Crafts in February 2017, after an auspicious opening at Wellington B. Gray Gallery at East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina. Organized by artist Boris Bally, the exhibition features more than 100 works made from decommissioned firearms by artists from the U.S. and six other countries. All works are for sale, and a percentage of the proceeds is being donated to the Brady Campaign, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence, and the Society of North American Goldsmiths.

The *Innovative Merger of Art & Guns to Inspire New Expressions (or I.M.A.G.I.N.E.) Peace Now* exhibition is "a call to arms, hearts, and hands intended especially

Stacey Lee Webber
Specimen Handgun #1, 2016
sliced handgun



for metal artists" conceived by Bally, a Swiss-trained metalsmith-designer based in Providence, Rhode Island. Bally was moved to action by the prevalence of gun violence in the U.S., citing a 2010 study that found that the firearm homicide rate is 20 times higher in the U.S. than the combined rates of 22 peer countries. "As metalsmiths, we harness skills to alter guns to produce sculpture; the notion of turning Swords into Plowshares," incites Bally's call for proposals.

Bally selected the works along with jurors Emily Zilber, Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts, Boston Museum of Fine Arts; Monica Moses, Editor in Chief, *American Craft* magazine; and artist and activist Shepard Fairey. As artists were selected, they were sent a disabled gun, which they then transformed into an "(un)loaded" object of art.

In 21st-century fashion, Bally created a Kickstarter campaign to fund the exhibition catalogue, and attracted 316 supporters from the U.S. and other countries. The campaign exceeded its \$50,000 goal by more than \$5,000, and allowed Bally and his team to publish and distribute a four-color, professionally designed and photographed catalogue, printed in the U.S. "What strikes me the most are the kind letters, enthusiasm, and 250 percent participation that the artists put into this," says Bally. "I am filled with pride and deeply moved that all the artists trusted that I would represent their work and interests fully."

WHOOPI'S JEWELRY TURNS HEADS AT FASHION WEEK

The runways at New York Fashion Week always feature trend-setting jewelry and accessories, and the Spring 2017 collections, presented in October of last year, were no exception.