

About the Artist...

Gerry Florida is a Pittsburgh award winning recycle-assemblage jewelry artist who established her career in the arts after a life altering accident. Her whimsical work morphed from personal experience and a developing belief system that exemplified her passion for human transformation through art. As a self proclaimed "master of imperfection" she models her work after life experiences and glorifies the victory of overcoming adversity by creating beauty from existing circumstances and materials.

Her whimsical repertoire of eco friendly materials includes vintage, new and recycled objects that mirror the imperfection in everyday life. Salvaged trinkets, broken toy parts and an array unusual finds speak for themselves as the focus of her pieces. Her life philosophy translates in her teaching style by encouraging her students to embrace the imperfections in their own lives and use experiences as catalysts for success... inspiring students to create a display of design possibilities by redefining beauty, functionality and worth.

As former National Corporate Division Director of United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Gerry blends her love of community with her art and has successfully established her reputation as a Pittsburgh artist with a community mission. She specializes in working with people who have experienced adversity, teaching at-risk youth, disabled, autistic and seniors and was most recently recognized as one of the "Women Champions 2013" for her work in this field.

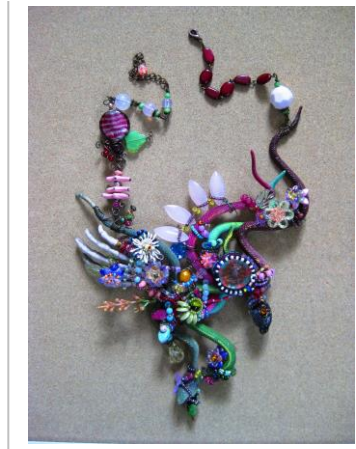
With numerous awards and recognitions for her avant-garde jewelry and her community contributions through her art, she actively exhibits in museums and art galleries In and out of state. She has set trends in the fashion industry appearing in numerous Pittsburgh fashion venues and non-profit benefit events. Her whimsical pieces have appeared in magazines, television and printed publications recognizing her bold, individualized and innovative style as well as her work as a community, environmental and human rights advocate.

A lifelong Pittsburgh resident, Gerry shares her passion for recovery through art with her greatest creation, her daughter Sasha, a model and artist in her own right.

Jewelry & Art Teaching Venues:

- * Visiting Artists Programs
- * Home School Art Classes
- * Recreation Department Workshops
- * Teacher Certification / Act 48 Credits
- * Public School Residencies
- * After School Programs / Title I
- * Family Workshops
- * Community Programs
- * Private Instruction
- * Artist Lectures
- * Group Workshops for:
 - Community Events*
 - Festivals / Fair Demos*
 - Special Events*
 - Club Events*
 - Adult and Youth Parties*

Jewelry and Art Programs, Workshops, and Class sessions are customized for the needs of at-risk populations: delinquent youth; disabled; autistic; and seniors; as well as the general population to include adults and youth.



"Trespassing Heaven"
Aaronel Deroy Gruber Award 2011
The Associated Artists of Pittsburgh / 101 Annual

Gerry focuses on enhancing personal style by encouraging students to experiment, discover and develop their unique individual design skills. Her workshops are geared to all skill levels from beginner to advance level students offering a variety of courses to include:

Workshops

- * Basic Jewelry Workshops
- * Beading Workshops
- * Wire Workshops
- * Metals Workshops
- * Design Workshops
- * Mixed Media Workshops
- * Steam Punk Workshops
- * Assemblage Workshops



"Echoes of Vestige" 2013
The New Collective / Pittsburgh Center for the Arts