

# Welcome



## Bolo Ties: a Western Tradition

**G25030503**

with Brandon Ruppert

April 2-6, 2025

Welcome!

This is a hands-on course in silver jewelry-making for students both new to silver-smithing or who already have basic silversmith skills. This class is designed to accompany the Ghost Ranch Bluegrass Festival. Students will learn to construct a Bolo tie, a form of neckwear that emerged in the 1940s and has developed into beautiful styles for both men and women. Studio work will be supplemented by demonstrations. Students will create one or more pieces of wearable or sellable art during the class. The class is designed for students at least 16 years or older.

The fully equipped Ghost Ranch Silversmith Studio provides a wonderful opportunity for students to learn the skills and techniques of silver jewelry-making in a beautiful location with a long history in the creative arts. Ghost Ranch is a place of beauty and serenity that nurtures the creative spirit in everyone it touches. We are excited to offer this class in conjunction with the Bluegrass Festival!

General Workshop Schedule:

Class will begin with an orientation to the studio on Wednesday evening, April 2nd, followed by in-studio work on April 3-4 and part of April 5th. Daily instruction and studio work will take place from 9-noon and 1-3:30 on each in-studio day.

For those who are interested, the studio may be open in the late afternoon and evening, though participation in Ghost Ranch and Bluegrass Festival activities is highly encouraged. Ghost Ranch is a wonderful place to visit with many things to do and many places to explore! A final ranch-wide Bluegrass Concert and Art Show will take place on Saturday evening, April 5th.

Supply List Requested by Instructor: The studio is fully equipped with all the needed tools, supplies and equipment necessary to complete your projects. Students may bring their own hand-tools, stones, and/or silver supplies if they wish, but please make sure tools are labeled with the student's name.

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- NOTE: Students will need to purchase any silver used in the class from Ghost Ranch if they don't bring their own materials. We will have all the needed silver available for purchase at the studio.
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- NOTE: Students should expect to spend between \$75 - \$200 on silver for the session unless supplies are brought from home – and this cost is NOT included in the class fee and will be paid at the end of class.

Students should also bring clothing that can get dirty and closed-toe shoes for safety. Recommended Resources: There are many books available in the library or on-line that illustrate southwest- style jewelry and jewelry construction techniques. Two excellent books to look for are: "The Complete Metalsmith" by Tim McCreight , and "Indian Jewelry Making" by Oscar T. Branson.

Instructor Contact Information: Brandon Ruppert is a silversmith, lapidary artist and woodworker. Brandon has always been a maker and a builder of things. Brandon attended the Krenov School of Fine Woodworking as a young adult where he developed an eye for craftsmanship, balance in design, and the method of building with raw materials, often with self-made tools. In 2021 Brandon attended the silversmithing class taught by Jamie Halpern at Ghost Ranch and has found it to be a wonderful creative outlet.

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