

# Welcome



## Women in Silver and Stone

G25100102

with Sandy Binion

October 4-11, 2025

Welcome to Ghost Ranch! It's time to get your hands dirty and dive into the art of lapidary!

This course will expand your skills by combining the brilliance of silver with the vibrant colors found in nature & stones. You'll learn to cut, shape, and polish stones to integrate them seamlessly into your designs. Expect to say goodbye to polished fingernails and perhaps discover a new addiction as you witness the transformation of raw rocks into stunning works of art.

Our time together will include technical demonstrations of stone setting, but the majority of your experience will be spent doing the work. Challenges will arise, but they bring the greatest growth, and your instructors—as well as your classmates—will support you in tackling even the most intricate design problems. This course is an opportunity to explore the rich tradition of Southwestern lapidary, all in the stunning surroundings of Ghost Ranch. You'll experience the unique privilege of working in the intimate Silversmithing Studio at the ranch. As women, we are in a constant state of multitasking. This week together will allow you to step away from the daily demands of life and immerse yourself completely in your craft. No cooking, no driving, and there's even very limited cell service—all you have to focus on is what lies within the grasp of your fingertips. Many past participants have called their time in the studio magical, a memory they'll cherish forever.

**Exploring the Business Side of Art:** For those who find their passion in jewelry-making and dream of turning it into a thriving business, we're excited to include guest speakers and open discussions. These sessions will cover the challenges and opportunities of the art market, providing valuable insights and practical advice on selling your creations. From pricing strategies to building your brand, you'll leave with a stronger sense of how to navigate the business side of your craft.

**Workshop Hours:** Classes run from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM and 1:00 PM–4pm. The studio will remain open for late afternoon and evening use for those eager to continue working or simply enjoy the space. You are also encouraged to explore the many activities and breathtaking locations

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Ghost Ranch has to offer. Socializing after class is an important part of the experience. A comfortable space will be available for evening hangouts, where you can relax, enjoy BYOB refreshments, and share snacks. Please plan ahead, as transportation to the only local store may require some coordination.

### **Supply List:**

The studio is fully equipped with all necessary tools, supplies, and equipment. Students are welcome to bring their own tools, stones, and silver if they prefer, but please ensure all items are labeled. Silver and other special rocks will be available for purchase at the studio. Expect to spend \$100–\$300 on silver for the week (not included in the class fee). Payment by cash or check is preferred.

For safety, please bring closed-toe shoes, clothing you don't mind getting dirty, and any additional protective gear like masks or goggles for grinding stones. For your comfort, keep in mind that the weather can be unpredictable. Plan to dress in layers to stay warm during chilly mornings, and bring sturdy shoes for the walk to and from the studio.

To dive deeper into Southwestern-style jewelry and silversmithing techniques, the following books are highly recommended:

- The Complete Metalsmith by Tim McCreight
- Indian Jewelry Making by Oscar T. Branson

### **Instructor Contact Information:**

Your instructors for the course are Sandy Binion, assisted by Kathy Shann, both accomplished silversmiths and Ghost Ranch alumnae. For any questions, feel free to contact: Sandy at [sandybinion@gmail.com](mailto:sandybinion@gmail.com).

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### **Workshop Schedule:**

Oct 4th: Check in (begins @ 3 PM) & Orientation following dinner

Oct 5th - 9th:

9 AM - Noon: Instruction in Silver Studio

Noon - 1 PM: Lunch

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM: Instruction in Silver Studio

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM: Dinner

Evenings: Open Studio, Free (or Social) time

Oct 10th:

9 AM - Noon: Last Silver Studio Session

Noon - 1 PM: Lunch

1:30 PM - 4 PM: Silver Studio clean up & prep for Art Show

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM: Dinner

6:30 PM: Art Show begins

Oct 11th: Check out by 10 AM