



Welding for Women

G26090302

with Connie B. Burkhart

September 20-26, 2026

Welcome to Women in Welding!

It promises to be a unique week filled with art, laughter, and a space to create from the heart. I have instructed welding at Ghost Ranch for 30 years, and I have always wanted to combine this wonderful art form with mindful creation using stories and experiences that feed the soul. This class is for all levels but is also wonderful for first-timers working with welding torches. We focus on smaller projects to fine-tune the amazing process of welding and brazing to join metal. Our other course is called 'Fire It Up! Art Welding' (taught in July and Sept) adds in electric welding options like MIG and sticks for larger heavy metal designs. Both classes complement each other, and although there is some overlap, 'Welding For Women' will offer an integrative experience that includes stories of some of the women in the history of Ghost Ranch as well as the ancient cultures that called this land their home. I find that knowing more about the space and place where you 'dive into the river of creativity' sparks the fire of inspiration. As women, I believe we have a feminine fire within that is full of unique insight, strength, and understanding that adds to the depth of our artistic creations.



CLASSROOM LOCATION ~ The Metal Arts Barn is our new welding studio and it is located behind the old horse barn on the campground side of the ranch.

SCHEDULE ~ 9am - Noon & 1:30pm to 4:30pm Monday through Friday

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DRESS FOR SUCCESS ~ Now for some logistics and items that will add to your success during the week. It is very important to dress appropriately for class. Please come with your own snug-fitting deerskin weight work gloves for our detailed work with the torch. Often, it can be hard to find small women's work gloves, which is irritating!! The better your lightweight gloves fit, the more success you'll have to maneuver the knobs and other tools. Long cotton pants are best (leggings are not suitable), and closed-toe (leather/like) footwear to protect your legs and feet from sparks and molten metal. T-shirts are OK, but bring a cotton long-sleeve shirt to use when you are creating sparks with grinders or other tools. It is fine to work in short sleeves and put your long sleeves on when needed. Another helpful item is a bandana for your head. Be aware you most likely will get a few holes in what you choose to wear for welding. Remember that mornings and evenings may be chilly.

OUR GUARDIANS & MATERIALS ~ As I mentioned in the course description, I will guide you as a class in creating an intentional design of a guardian figure that will lend itself to many aspects of joining and finishing metal sculpture. In making this piece, you will learn varied processes that are used in creating metal designs, as well as take some time to consider those in your life that have been 'guides or guardians' to you. These figures refer to my signature



design called 'She Who Walks With Me,' that are made mainly from steel (for the base), copper pipe (for the body), and mixed media decorative items. Each figure ranges from about 9"-10" high, and they are all unique to how you are called to design them. All materials are provided, so you do not need to worry about bringing any scrap metal - that is included in the cost of the class. The figures are decorated with beads, stones, feathers, and/or other mixed media objects, which will also be provided. However, if you have special decorative items like small stones, jewelry scraps, crystals, etc., you may consider bringing them and incorporating them into your design. I use a lot of old jewelry I received from my mother, and that makes my 'She Who Walks With Me' designs even more meaningful when they come to life. You are welcome to bring some of your own things that you may want to use as a design element for your pieces. I use a variety of items to finish a piece after the welding is done. A supply of 'fun' things will be available for class, so don't feel you need to figure it all out before you come. Also, note that this will be only one of the projects during the week, and there will be opportunities to make other designs as inspired. Welding classes have a permanent large scrap pile that workshop participants can pull from for extra materials.

Please feel free to reach out with any other questions that you may have. Travel safely and get ready for a great experience surrounded by the incredible inspiring beauty surrounded by the beauty of Ghost Ranch.

Take Care, Connie B. Burkhart rdrckwmn@msn.com. ConnieBurkhart.com
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Welding For Women Daily Schedule

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Sunday evening orientation after dinner

Monday to Thursday - Metal Arts Barn

9am - Noon

1:30pm - 4:30pm

Evening/Options open studio for non-welding, non-power tool work

Friday 9am - Noon

1:30pm - 2:30 finish up any last minute pieces/clean up work stations &  
studio

2:45pm - 3:45 closing circle & load art for show

4:00pm - 4:30 - Set up for art show

6:30pm - Art Show starts depending on location may last to 7:30

Saturday - Depart after breakfast