

Benchmarks

This has been a recurring theme of the last year: connection. Though we each have different vantage points, we join our specialized skills in shared interest, trusting that we can build, grow, and reach.

This was true in the fall, when we joined MassArt and SMFA at Tufts in a Radical Jewelry Makeover—bringing our technical knowledge to the artistic and creative approaches of art-students (and heaps of jewelry from the community). What started as a tiny piece in one's dresser drawer, ended in remade jewelry and new understandings of the environment, and our interconnection with mined materials and the earth's resources.

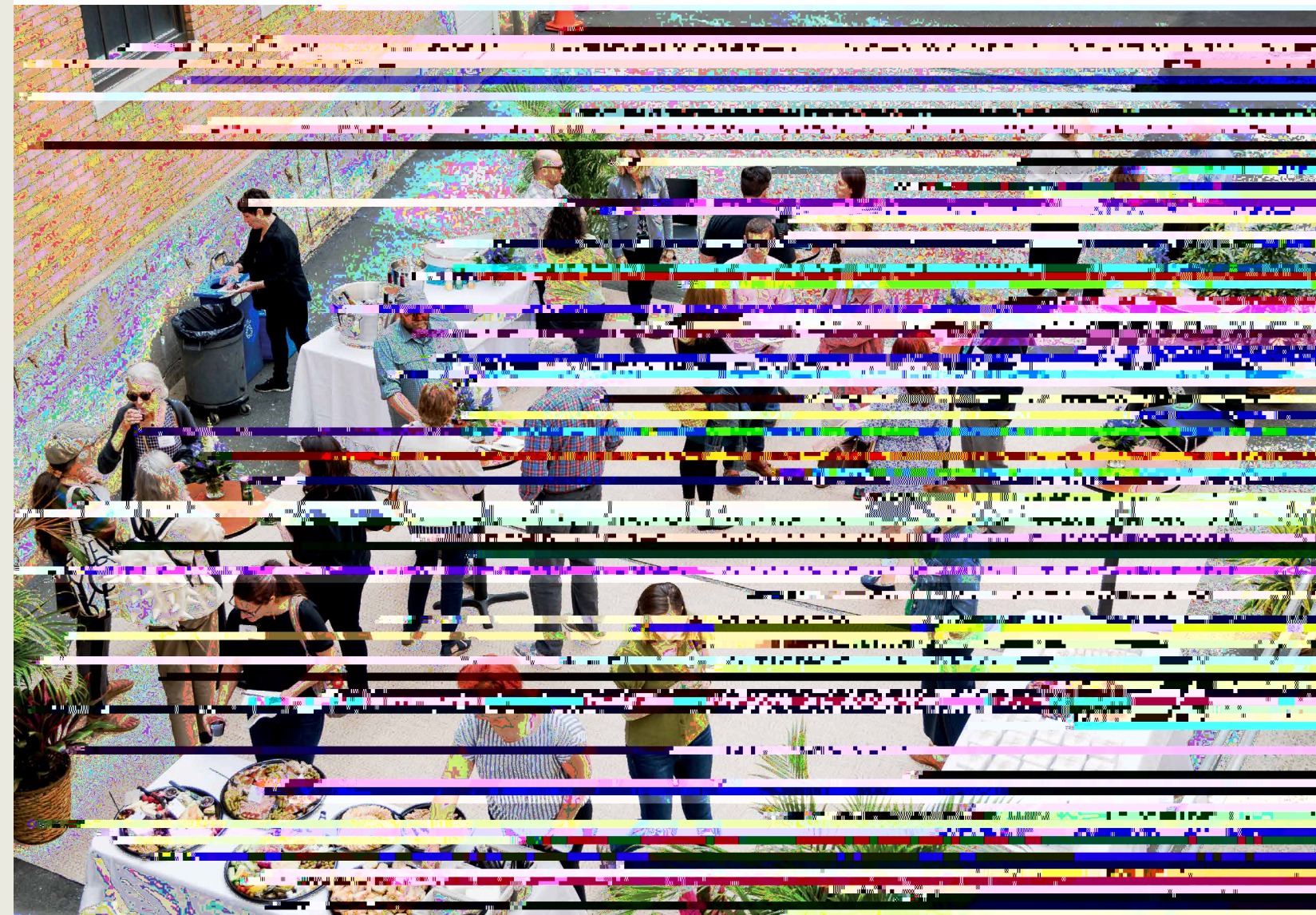
Collaboration between and among our career training programs is nothing new. But a rising cohort of students is bridging disciplines with dual diplomas. Viet Phan and Plamen Jetchev built their skills and confidence in locksmithing, and then followed up on their interest to learn how to build homes—locks, doors, frames, and all—in our Carpentry program. In many ways, they exemplify our philosophy of hands, hearts, and minds working in concert together.

We also see connections in our 2022 *Exhibition: Making Matters*. Here, a well-tuned string helps to perform a symphony. A carefully crafted window will be opened and enjoyed over a life-time. A repaired book can preserve generations of knowledge. In it, we can look closely at these small details and also take a step back, marveling at their shared impact.

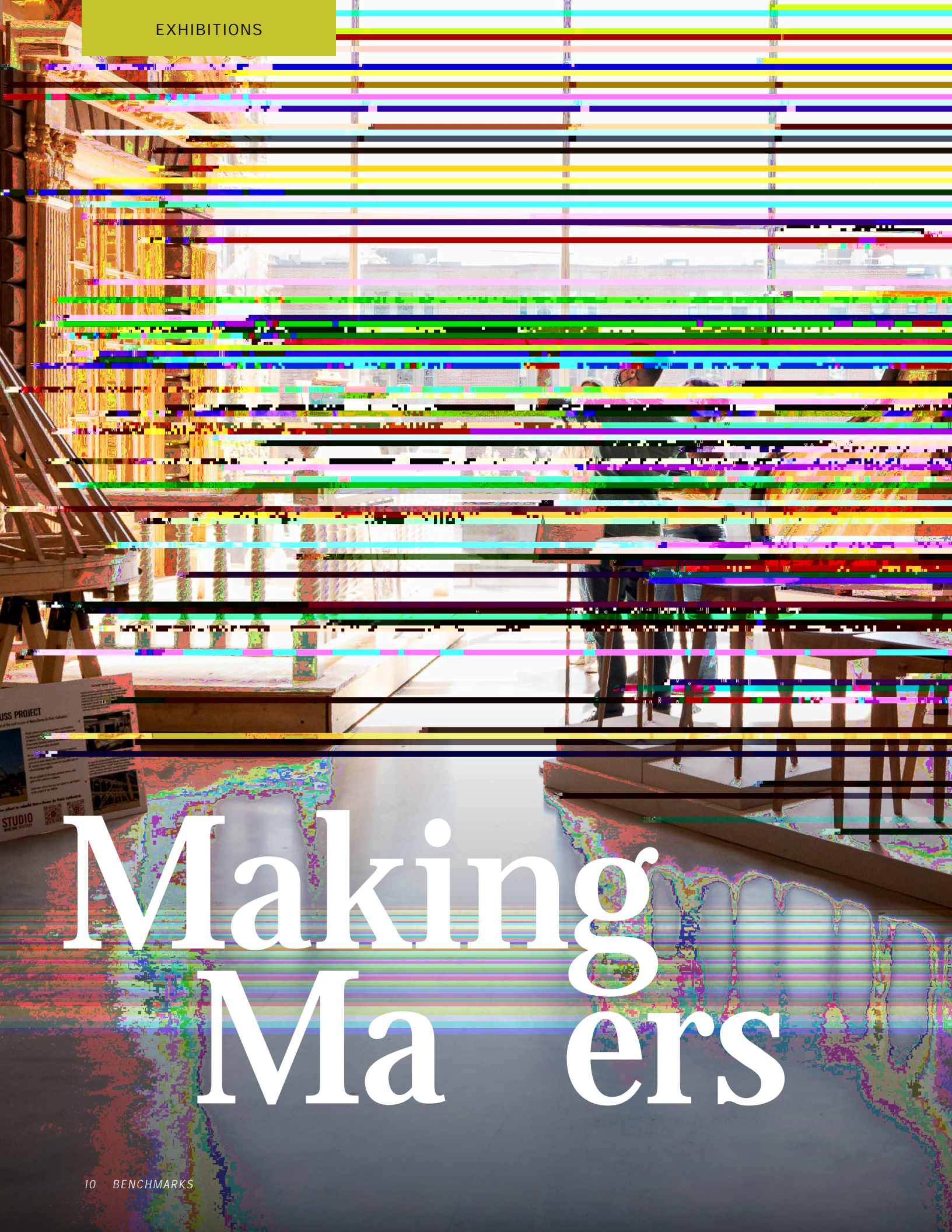
On that summer graduation day in June, recognizing the work of our students and faculty gave me hope. In a world struggling for respect and empathy, it is work at a human-scale that will make an impact. As you read our stories from the year, I hope you'll reflect on the connections in your own life and work, and how these can be meaningful to individual lives, broader communities, or our culture as a whole.



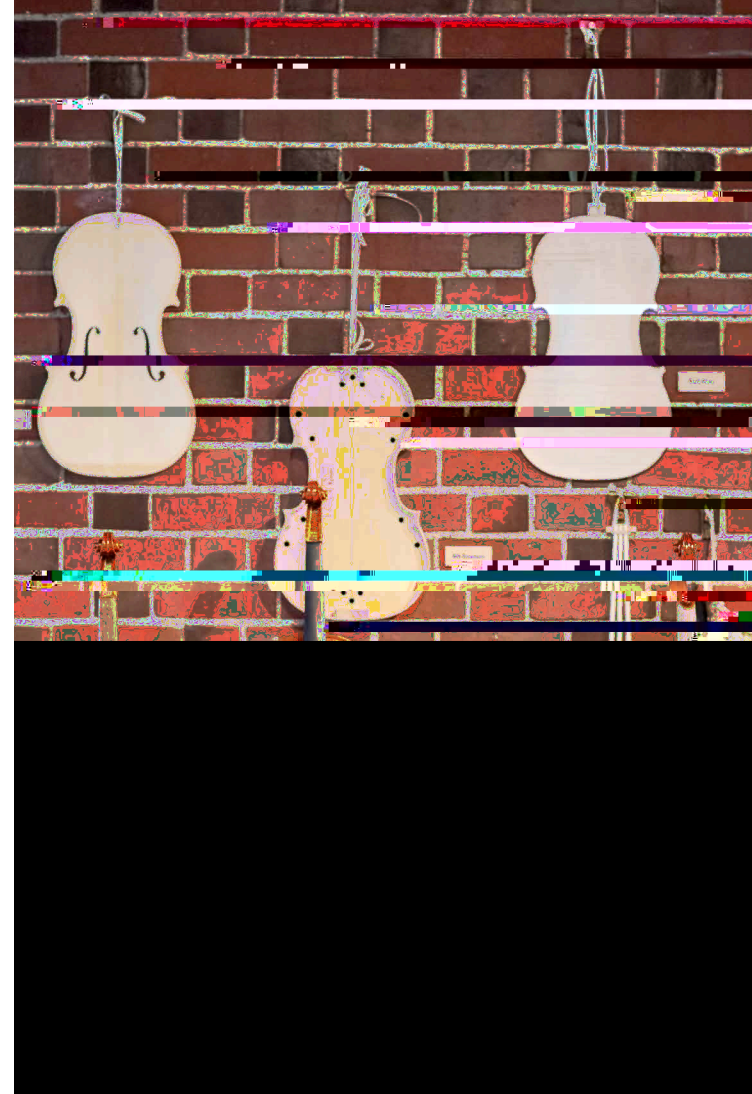
SARAH TURNER, PRESIDENT



Kurt, founder and owner of C2MG Builders in
Topsfield MA, is always looking for ways to give
back to North Bennet Street School and to support
Carpentry students. He has been a Carpentry



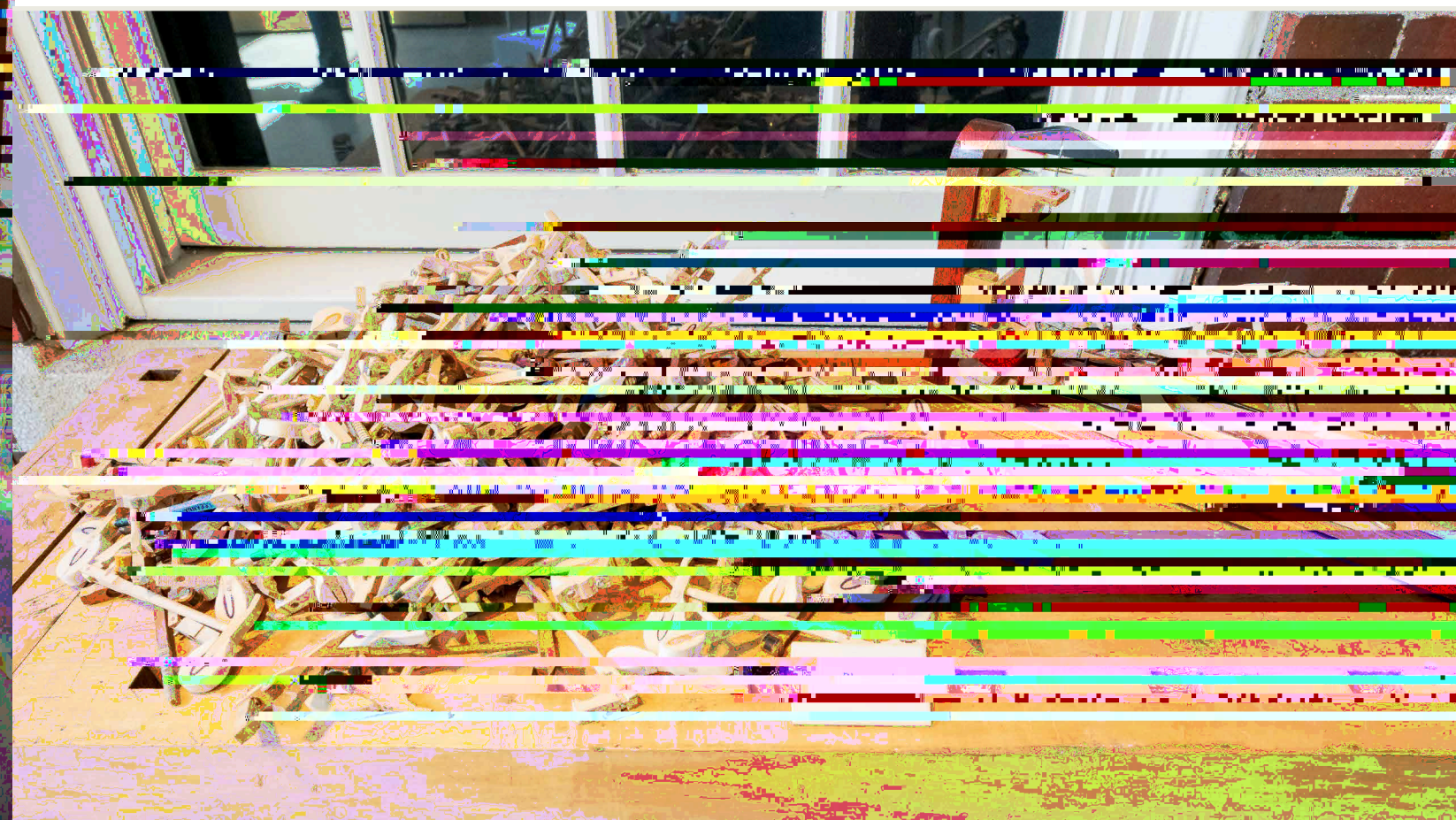
Making Matters



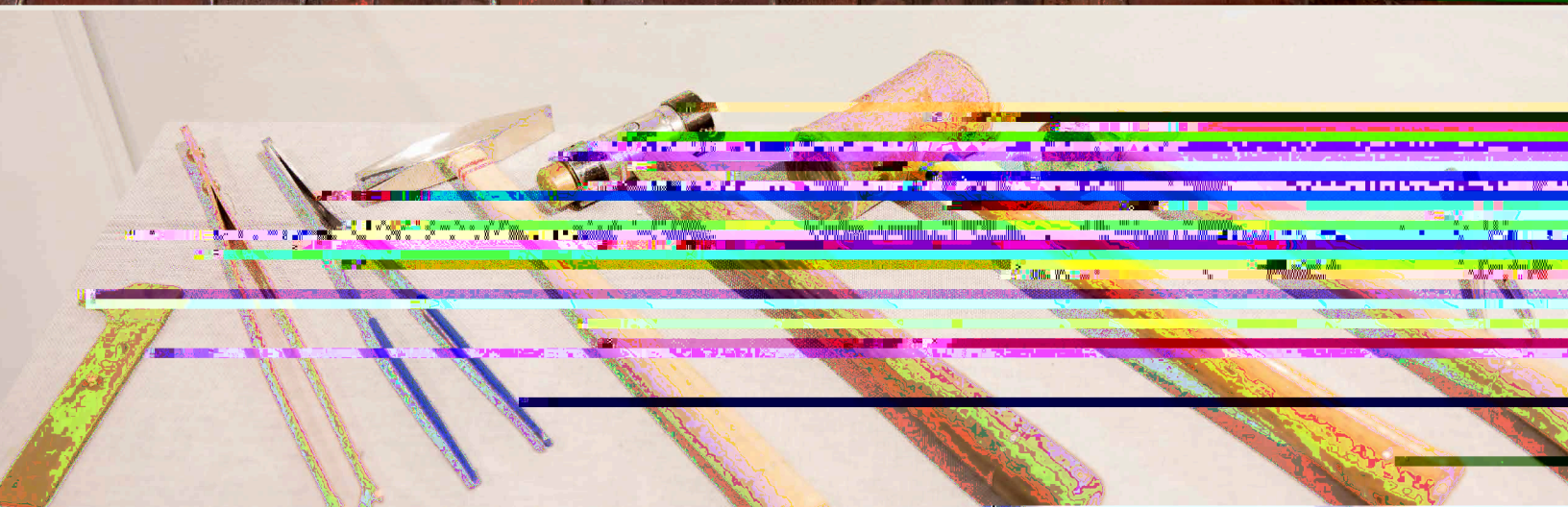
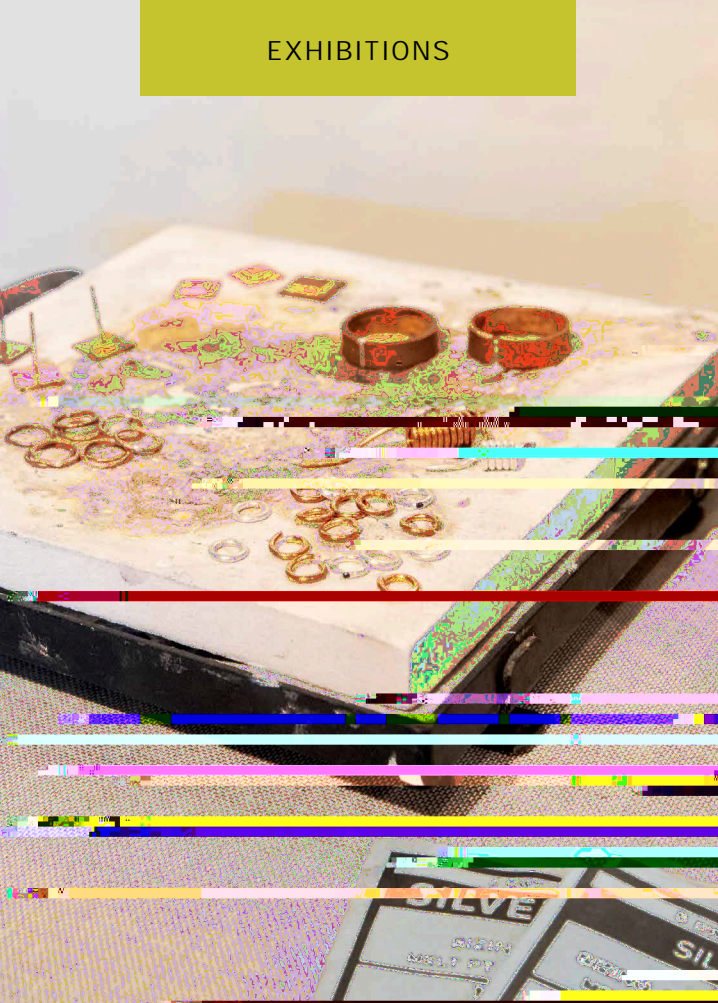
Featuring displays of typical objects, tools, and materials from our career-training programs, our *2022 Exhibition: Making Matters* is a behind-the-scenes look at the craft and care of making.

While many of the works on display could represent almost any era in the history of our School—a deconstructed piano, hand carved brackets, jewelers' tools, finely bound books—they also reflect the heads-down and hands-on focus of the last two years.

Part science exhibit and part gallery show, the displays offer insight on how craft- and tradespeople create objects that last—be it a chair, a necklace, a book, a lock, a building, or an instrument. With attention and care as a recurring theme, our 2022 Exhibition reveals how the act of making matters in our everyday lives.



EXHIBITIONS



On display through August 26, 2022

Learn more and view the exhibition at nbss.edu/2022exhibition

Becoming a Tradesperson

Changing Directions

Plamen first became interested in the trades as a young boy growing up in Bulgaria. His grandfather was a self-taught carpenter who “could build something out of just raw wood,” Plamen says. “I’ve always wanted to be able to do that.” But at six years old, Plamen showed aptitude for the piano and was placed in a music program at Bulgarian National Conservatory. When it came time for college, he traveled to the U.S. under a scholarship to study at Berklee College of Music.

Ultimately, the lifestyle of a musician was not for him however, and he took some time off to consider his options. NBSS had long been on his radar, and he knew locksmiths were in demand. “I like mechanics and puzzles,” he shares, and so the LK program was a clear choice. Once there, like Viet, Plamen mastered how to service, repair, and install an array of residential and commercial locks.

Over time, he realized that “locksmithing and carpentry can really complement each other.” Plamen enrolled in the CA program, where he especially loved learning about the history of local New England styles, along with building and insulation



Together in Cra

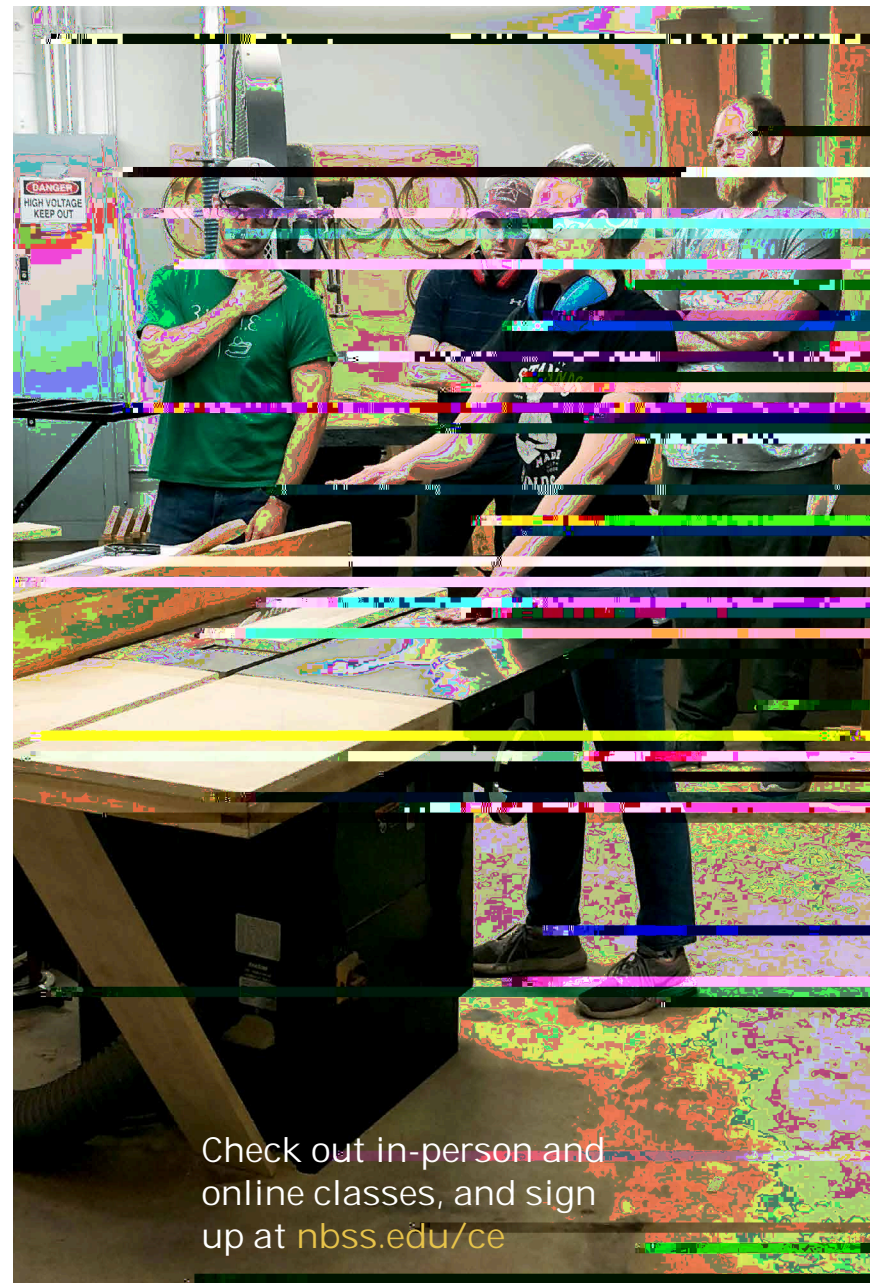
Meet three students who gained new-found skills and community through Continuing Education (CE) classes at NBSS.

Cecilia Gerard Woodworking 101

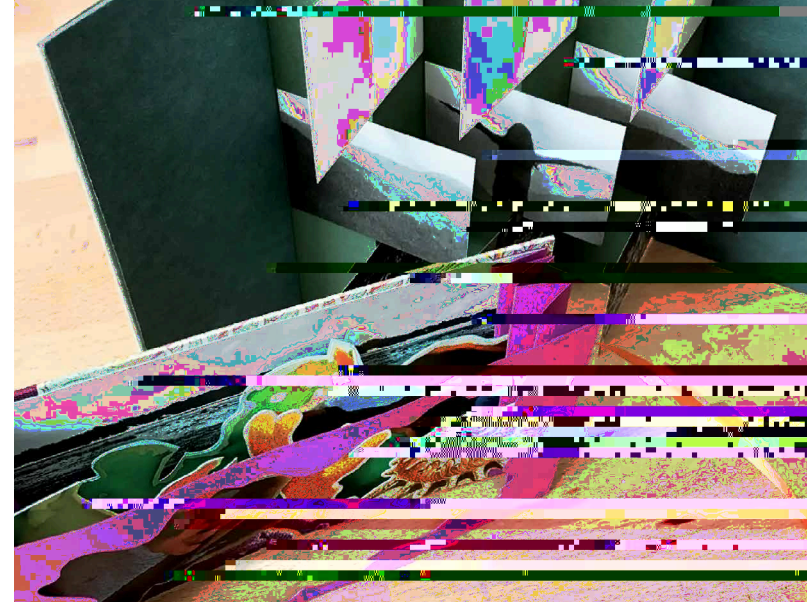
“The instructors succeeded in showing us what was possible while meeting us where we were in our abilities. I came out of it confident to get started on my own small projects.”

The idea started while hunting for a wooden Montessori play shelf for her son. The cabinet looked simple enough. “I thought, ‘I can do this,’” Cecilia says. “And after two years of Covid, I needed to get out of my bubble... I missed learning new things.” A woodworking beginner, she felt like a “kid in a candy shop” when she discovered the CE courses.

Over one weekend at NBSS, she made a box with rabbit joints while learning everything from the science of wood to how to safely use a chisel and table or miter saw. The two instructors masterfully “made the complex simple,” and the ten-person class felt very welcoming and fun, Cecilia says. Her new dream is to help repair her back deck, alongside an experienced carpenter. She’s already signed up for a more intensive woodworking course at NBSS.



Check out in-person and online classes, and sign up at nbss.edu/ce



Jeff Hanley CA '21 Three-Month Furniture Making Intensive

“Don’t hesitate, and sign up early because classes fill up fast! It’s definitely worth it. Just believe in yourself. The instructors will take care of the rest.”

“The best thing was the quality of the instruction, which led to the high quality of work that I’m able to produce,” Jeff says. One of his favorite pieces to build was a cabinet made of African mahogany wood. “It’s beautiful, and a great way to house my tools.”

A 2021 graduate of the School’s Carpentry program, he’s gearing up to start the Cabinet & Furniture Making program this fall. Jeff feels great having this intensive primer under his belt, and he’s already put his newfound skills to good use at his carpentry job. Plus, family requests keep coming in, laughs Jeff, who’s been busy with home cabinetry and furniture projects.

Jean Wallick Artist’s Books: Online

“Our Instructor Erin [Fletcher, an NBSS grad] has absolutely mastered online programs,” Jean shares from her home workshop wearing her favorite NBSS apron. “She is meticulous, and has the wonderful capacity to get inside the brain of a student.”

Over the years, Jean has taken more than 25 bookbinding courses through CE. The classes have been a source of joy for Jean, who operated a busy used-books shop for many years and often repaired the well-read inventory. “I’ve always loved books,” Jean says. “I love that within two covers are somebody’s ideas. You get to hold it, learn from it, and experience it.” Now retired and living in Western Massachusetts, Jean is thrilled she can continue taking NBSS courses, online.

“The wonderful thing about a Zoom program is that you are on top of what’s going on. You get to see what the instructor’s hands are doing, how much pressure is going down—all really important things in bookbinding.”

Work With the Best

Connect with our talented community! We train students to produce the highest quality of work, and to commit to excellence in their craft. Here are two great ways to access our expertise for your next project or role:

Since its founding as a settlement house for immigrants in 1881, NBSS has trained individuals of all backgrounds and across gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, political class, and citizenship status. Today, our history informs how we can improve the ways we welcome, support, and celebrate broader diversity at NBSS.

As a craft and trade school, we believe that teaching people meaningful and useful skills empowers them with their ownicis.29h.lcomsupport, and celebracoadercedivi useful ski/eaching D9Tc 9-83ity vs Ec9 4 (s q9-8(D9Tcuc9 8.9Tc 9-85.8 ,c9 156.28 238 Td(arou34.04oTq34.04o29ngf289174.47, NB(0.145 00316.)0219 0.34.04oTq34.04on 188.47, NBSSa)-24 56n)3.3Tcd)-2rk Ic9 8.40 rarou3

Alumni Business Directory

Our community of 3,000 alumni live and work around the globe. This showcase offers just a few of the skilled tradespeople you can connect with for their expertise and care. The Directory represents dozens of small businesses across:

