

ARTIST STATEMENT:

My professional practice is based on the premise that art plays a significant role in social change reaching the community at large to raise public awareness. All forms of art are universally understood regardless of language, religion, or nationality. My nature-inspired and activist creations are associated with social causes such as wildlife conservation and women's empowerment.

Fine art and the natural environment inspire the creation of my wildlife forms, including bees, hummingbirds, lions, elephants, bears, and more. These elements add beauty and significance to the enrichment of the human experience. I find a parallel between the forms found in nature to the timeless art that I observe in the great museums of the world. This nature-themed work contains symbolism that refers to strong, positive, earth origins. An awareness of environmental concerns and sustainability allow me to juxtapose natural forms with urban landscapes to emphasize the interrelationship and fragility of the environment and climate change.

In terms of activism on behalf of women's empowerment, I have created various jewelry pieces, such as Statue of Liberty Crown pins and Suffragette symbol Pansy charms, promoting the activist pieces as vigorously as I promote my nature forms. My activism extends to mentoring, and teaching workshops on both the national and international level.

BIO:

Michele Benjamin is a New York-based artist who earned a BA from the School of Art at Arizona State University, where she studied art history and studio art, including painting, sculpture, and printmaking. She completed post-graduate studies at Parsons School of Design, and specialized Jewelry Design courses at Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), including fabrication techniques, lost wax, and professional jewelry production methods. Michele Benjamin creates jewelry, sculpture, digital photography prints and wearable art.

Her collections are offered in art galleries, cultural institutions, and boutiques in the U.S., and online nationally and internationally, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, Bruce Museum Store, Pictor Gallery, on the runway at New York Fashion Week (NYFW), and on Amazon.com.

Her collections are certified: “Made in New York” through the New York Economic Development Corporation. She has received commissions from New York City Store, Central Park Conservancy, Battery Park Conservancy, Empowers Africa, The High Line, Roanoke College, Salem, VA, Berkshire Botanical Garden, Stockbridge, MA, Siddhartha School, Ladakh, India, and for Dubai Expo 2020, UAE.