

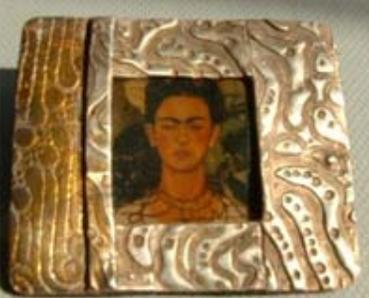


## *Meet the Artist*

**Friday, August 22, 2008**

Olivia Surratt, a rising star in precious metal clay and polymer clay jewelry design, will debut her one-of-a-kind pieces at MAJA on Friday, August 22, 2008 from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Olivia's interest in jewelry making started during a visit to the optometrist where she discovered eyeglass holders which were made using various types of beads. She thought, "This looks like fun." At that moment, she decided to give up or, at least, put aside her hobby of constructing period doll houses, room boxes and miniature furniture. I was wowed by her precision and attention to the smallest detail in her tiny rooms. She was quite good. Now she is applying that same characteristic attention-to-detail to her jewelry making.



Before continuing the jewelry aspect of this introduction, let me tell you a little about Olivia's background. She is a New Yorker who built her career in finance on Wall Street for ten years. She acquired extensive knowledge of the industry and the capital/debt structure of major USA companies. In 1993, she relocated to Baltimore, worked with well-known local investment companies and four years later, established her own financial advisory and money management firm. After long, as many as 10-hour days conducting her business and performing other professional tasks, Olivia relaxes by "shaping" her polymer and precious metal clays into beautiful components for her creations.

Olivia has completed classes and workshops at Maryland Institute College of Art, the Baltimore Gem Cutters Guild, Peter Valley Craft Center, the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen and Polymer Clay Express at the Art Way. She is a Rio Grande PMC certified instructor. She loves amber, turquoise, coral, carnelian, antique ivory and other old beads. Tribal and ethnic styles inspire many of her designs. One of her creations is entitled "Bogolan - the Series". Bogolan, commonly referred to as mud cloth, is a textile from Mali, a country located in West Africa. Olivia has





designed beads made from polymer clay in the likeness of colors and symbols in the cloth.



During her exhibition, Olivia will discuss two of the materials that she uses in polymer clay: a plastic called polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and precious metal clay (PMC). She will also give a brief demonstration of polymer clay techniques at 3:00 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Please join us on Friday, August 22, 2008, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. at

**MAJA**  
**1744 Aliceanna Street**  
**Baltimore, Maryland 21231**

For more information, call 410-327-9499 Wednesday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.