

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE BELT BUCKLE EXPO

March 27–June 13, 2020

FEATURING:

Winners of the World Champion
Belt Buckle Competition 2020

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, March 27, 5-7pm



Non-Ferrous, 3rd place, by William Vanaria

THE BELT BUCKLE IS BACK (AND IN FRONT) AT FORM & CONCEPT

(March 2020) **form & concept** is delighted to announce the homecoming of the best in the belt buckle: **Belt Buckle Expo 2020**, juried by artists and buckle enthusiasts **Bryan Peterson** and **Robert Ebendorf**, returns for its second year at **form & concept** gallery. **Over 45 buckles**, from copper blooming dahlias to drawn neo-chrome and enameled inhalers, showcase this year's top entries to the **World Champion Belt Buckle Competition**. An **opening reception** with invited artists will be held on **Friday, March 27, 5-7pm**.

Since the international competition's inception in 2012, jewelry artist Bryan Peterson has sought to challenge expectations of the belt buckle. More than just a functional piece for the pant, these belt buckles—in the hands of metal artisans and contemporary craft makers—take waist adornment to a new level of attention, from highly-complicated mechanical details to found elements and assemblages that trick and tease the viewer.

Perhaps not surprisingly, this year's winners all share a sharp sense of humor, underscoring the buckle as an arena for play and tomfoolery. Taehyun Bang's winning buckle *Untitled*, whose life began as a teacup and saucer, is our first fantastical stop. "The first time I saw Bang's submission," Peterson says, "I thought we had an entry from an accomplished ceramicist working in porcelain." Perhaps the best example of the group exhibition as a whole is 3rd place-winning buckle *Non-Ferrous* by Vanaria, who represents the metalsmithing community as a family worthy of their own coat of arms. The piece's title refers to the metals first used by humans, from copper and brass to bismuth and cobalt, still highly-desirable today for their non-corrosive, lightweight and high-conductive properties.

Juror's Statement by Robert Ebendorf

There is a reference to history in the top three awards, honoring making and working with metal. These artists are clearly speaking with the tools of the trade. There is a very personal relationship to the body and the personal domain. In the history of the buckle we see The Wild West, Rodeo, The Native American; it is also known for noting special events and presidents. Through my opportunity to co-jury this years' event, I had the experience of learning about this new language with the excitement and enthusiasm of a kid coming home from school!

Winning Artists: Taehyun Bang (1st Place), Tim Lazure (2nd Place), William Vanaria (3rd Place)

Honorable Mentions: Emily Pellini, Josie Mayes, Lisa and Scott Cylinder, Rose Schlemmer

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