

Artist Rachelle Thiewes shows a steel necklace. The retired UTEP professor taught many of the artists in the new Museum of Art show.



RUDY GUTIERREZ — EL PASO TIMES

EL PASO MUSEUM OF ART

LOCAL TREASURE

MAKE PLANS

What: "Body Art: Contemporary El Paso Jewelry" exhibit.

When: Opens with a reception at 2 p.m. today. The exhibit will continue through April 26.

Where: El Paso Museum of Art, One Arts Festival Plaza.

Who: The show will feature 14 artists: Rachelle Thiewes, Susan Eisen, Lorena Aguirre, Laura Aragon, Victor Beckmann, Claudia Bernal, Laura Caballero, Isaan Elkin, Helen Ellison-Dorion, Criselda Lopez, Margie Melby, Linda Moore, Tamara Michalina St. Jean and Daniel Szwaczkowski.

Details: Some of the artists will be at the reception, and attendees can see samples of the artists' jewelry being worn.

Admission: Free.

Information: 532-1707.



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Lorena Aguirre with her two-in-one bracelet and ring made with 18-karat gold-plated brass. The piece will be among the items on display in an exhibit at the El Paso Museum of Art that opens today.



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This piece by Rachelle Thiewes, made of sterling silver with 18K yellow gold, was colored using a chemical process and heat.

El Paso is rich in jewelry artists, museum show points out

By María Cortés González
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The El Paso Museum of Art will unveil an exhibit of work today that is both functional and artistic.

The work is diverse in materials, often striking, and made to be worn. What's more, it celebrates the talent of El Paso-area artists, many of whom were students of exhibitor and retired University of Texas at El Paso artist Rachelle Thiewes.

"Body Art: Contemporary El Paso Jewelry" opens with a reception today in the Dede Rogers Special Events Gallery inside the museum Downtown. It will be up through April 26.

Senior Curator Patrick Cable said Thiewes, who retired in May after 37 years of running UTEP's metals program, helped with suggestions of possible artists for the show. She is well known internationally for her jewelry and shared her metalsmithing talents with hundreds of students.

The show will feature 14 artists: Thiewes, fine jewelry designer Susan Eisen, Lorena Aguirre, Laura Aragon, Victor Beckmann, Claudia Bernal, Laura Caballero, Isaan Elkin, Helen Ellison-Dorion, Criselda Lopez, Margie Melby, Linda Moore, Tamara Michalina St. Jean and Daniel Szwaczkowski.

"I really like the range of artists. We have Rachelle, and of course she taught a lot of the people who are in the show. One student, Susan Eisen, studied with her and her predecessor Wiltz Harrison. It made me realize that — historically and up to present day — that UTEP is really a center for jewelry design and production in this region," Cable said.

Museum officials wanted to focus on contemporary regional jewelry after an earlier exhibit, "Inquisitive

"Soldier of Conscience" jewelry with hand-stamped sayings, by Margie Melby. This one says "Share your knowledge and your love" and "There is never a wrong time to do the right thing."



COURTESY OF MARGIE MELBY



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"Franklin Mountain Abstract" by Susan Eisen.



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A necklace by Laura Aragon.