

“EXPLORING THE DESIGN POSSIBILITIES OF WIRE” with Giovanna Imperia In this presentation, we will discuss the role of wire in textiles — from braiding to weaving and anything in between. A brief historical review will illustrate the various techniques used across ages and cultures to integrate wire in various crafts, with particular emphasis on wearables (e.g., garments, jewelry, accessories). We will also discuss which metals are most appropriate to use, and we will review key properties to consider when planning to incorporate wire in weaving or braiding. Lastly, we will briefly discuss how to set up equipment, how to work with metal, and finishing techniques.

Giovanna Imperia is the author of *Kumihimo Wire Jewelry*, and has written many articles on braiding and weaving. Her work has been shown in many juried and invitational national and international exhibits. Selected work has also been reproduced in textile and jewelry books, and can be found in private and museum collections. Giovanna’s work focuses on exploring the tactile and organic nature of fiber, while pushing the boundaries of the expected definition of body adornment and 3D objects. This is accomplished by actively involving the user through the concept of “transformation” – the idea of actively engaging the user with shaping and transforming the art piece. The use of wire is an integral part of this concept as it allows the piece to retain the chosen shape.

