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Paulette Werger Announced Winner in 2012 NICHE Awards
Artist Honored for Innovative and Creative Designs in North American Craft

March 8, 2012 (Philadelphia) — The coveted NICHE Award was presented to Paulette Werger in a ceremony held February 18, 2012, at the Buyers Market of American Craft. Werger's piece Dandelion Servers was selected as a winner in the Metal: Fabricated/Forged category.

The award, which recognizes the best contemporary design by American and Canadian artisans, was announced at a ceremony that took place during the Buyers Market of American Craft on Saturday, February 19, 2012.

Werger exhibits and sells her work both nationally and internationally including the Chazen Museum of Art in Madison, WI; the Renwick Gallery of Craft in Washington, DC; Society of Arts and Crafts, MA. She teaches workshops in jewelry making and metalsmithing techniques across the country and at the League of NH Craftsmen workshops. Werger's work is included in the permanent collection of the League of NH Craftsmen and AVA Gallery and Art Center. She has also received awards for her work in the "Living with Craft" and "Craftwear" exhibits at the League of NH Craftsmen's Sunapee Fair.

***Dandelion Servers* are part of a larger body of work that was inspired by her combined love of drawing, botany and working in metal. Werger states, "Playing with the metaphor of cycles of life and growth allows me to work within a simple visual narrative. The work is intentionally pared-down, simple and spare as the first forms of spring or the last of winter."**

The annual NICHE Awards competition is sponsored by NICHE magazine, the only trade magazine written exclusively for retailers of fine craft. The competition is open to professional craft artists who reside in America or Canada and are actively involved in the design and production of craftwork supplied to galleries and craft stores. Works are judged by innovation in design, technical achievement and marketability. In the professional division this year, there were more than 1100 entries in nearly 40 categories covering a variety of mediums, with both functional and decorative designs.

Werger's work will be featured in the Spring 2012 issue of NICHE magazine.