



At the heart of this art form are the materials and techniques used. San Diego artist, Arline Fisch, literally weaves gold on a loom for *Floating Square Bracelet* (Fig. 2), an eye-catching piece with a basket-weave pattern. Shahasp Valentine (Fig. 4) creates striking, sleek pieces from a special clay containing micro-particles of gold. The clay evaporates during the kiln-firing process to reveal an entirely gold object (most techniques employ metal alloys so that the objects may endure processes of forming and shaping). The *Turtle Hatchling Pin Set* (Fig. 5) from the Michael Daniels Collection is made using the ancient *mokume gane* technique. In *mokume* (meaning “wood-grain” in Japanese) *gane*, precious metals are layered and fused together to create a fluid, multicolored surface that results in patterns likened to wood-grains. Jack da Silva (Fig. 41) also incorporates this stunning technique for the handle of his sculptural creamer, using both 22-karat gold and sterling silver. Alexandra Hart combines the techniques of *repoussé* and hammering to realize her edgy conceptions, *Cactus Spike Necklace* and *Cactus Spike Earrings* (Fig. 3).




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“Beyond the Mines: The California Art of Gold,” Crocker Art Museum-organized exhibition, consisting of 40 California artists working in gold, will continue to April 27 at the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA (see address and telephone number above).

“Knife Edge #26” necklace, Shahasp Valentine, 2002, 24k PMC, pearl, with three pearls in the chain wrapped with 18k.

