



Early 2000s

During a visit to Taiwan in 2004, Jane Adam gave an in-depth workshop on her aluminum anodizing and dyeing techniques. Mei-Fang Chiang, a student who participated in the workshop, was drawn to the light, affordable, and commonplace metal and the range of possibilities it offered. Since then, Chiang has grown her expertise in aluminum anodizing and cold connections, creating ephemeral and shifting layers of texture and color in her work. The enterprising artist continues to make both art objects and production jewelry.

Similarly, when Sarah Perkins visited Taiwan, her enamel workshop influenced Peggy Hung and Ting-Ting Tsao, who later cofounded Bomb Metal & Fry Jewelry Studio (BMFJ). Tsao shares how their artworks were selected for the 2004 and 2005 Talente Competition in Munich and “a number of Taiwanese news outlets reported on the recognition of [their] work.”⁵ The media exposure helped the duo launch BMFJ in 2005 and begin the sixteen-year-long journey of introducing contemporary jewelry and metals to their customers.

Part gallery, part store, and part studio, BMFJ was tucked into a quaint alleyway in the busy Datong district of Taiwan’s capital, Taipei. Through this storefront, Hung and Tsao introduced hundreds of local jewelry artists to their clients and held art exhibitions that challenged their audience with unexpected materials and techniques. These included anodized aluminum, intricate enamel plique-à-jour, multilayered porcelain, woven metal, and thin acrylic sheet that was laser cut, folded, then hand dyed.

The average person’s understanding of jewelry and metal arts in the early 2000s was confined to traditional gold wedding jewelry, watchmaking, or 24k gold sculptures of mythical creatures. Hung and Tsao believed it was their responsibility as artists and shopkeepers to entice and educate their audience. Although their personal interest lay in sculptural metal arts, they saw jewelry as a meeting point between their artistic endeavors and market demand.

Mei-Fang Chiang

The Other Shore, 2015
Anodized aluminum, stainless steel wire, rusty wire
18 x 14 x 3 cm
23 x 6 x 3 cm
17 x 11 x 3 cm
19 x 20 x 2 cm
Photo courtesy of the artist

Mei-Fang Chiang

Greedy Grass, 2016
Anodized aluminum, stainless steel wire, sterling silver
40 x 33 x 20 cm
Photo courtesy of the artist

