Introduction to Welding and Creative Metalwork

This is an art class for those without prior metal working experience. You will be introduced to flame and arc welding, torch cutting, plasma cutting, forging, and the use of a variety of shop equipment. You will complete a small project to get experience using oxy/acetylene welding and basic equipment, then create one or more pieces of art of your own design.

The class is relaxed, with students setting their own pace. This is a hands-on course structured to allow students the maximum amount of time to practice and work on individual projects. Please wear sturdy shoes – NO SNEAKERS.

Course Objectives:
1. Generate excitement over the possibilities for creative expression through metal working.
2. Become comfortable with the equipment and methods of basic metal joining processes.
3. Gain ability to safely use welding, metal cutting and metal fabrication equipment

Equipment List

It is necessary for all students to purchase their own personal protection equipment and hand tools. Do not purchase expensive items before the first class. The following are recommended tools and safety equipment

Oxy-Acetylene Welding:
1. Welding and Cutting Goggles (Shade #5)
2. Light duty welding gloves
3. Pliers (any type) suitable for picking up hot metal
4. Spark lighter (striker)
5. Safety glasses

Arc Welding:
1. Welding helmet with flip front (shade 10 or 11) or auto-darkening helmet
2. Diagonal cutting pliers or MIG pliers
3. Heavy leather welding gloves
4. Vise grips
5. Wire brush

Recommended hand tools:
1. 12’ (or longer) measuring tape
2. 4 ½” Electric angle grinder with abrasive wheel and wire wheel
3. Adjustable wrench, 8” or 10”
4. Large ball peen hammer or hand sledge
5. C-clamps
6. Vise grips pliers
7. Magic marker, Sharpie, soapstone w/holder, or other device for marking metal