



*Radiant Opal Pendant*



*Romancing the Stone*



*Romancing the Stone:  
Reverse Stone Setting*

## Personal Jewelry Retreat: Opals Queen of Gems with Holly and Chris Gage

Bowmansville, PA 17507

For more information or to make reservations, please contact: Holly at [hgage1@ptd.net](mailto:hgage1@ptd.net)

This 3-day retreat is all about spoiling you! We'll pamper you every step of the way, from your artistic experience to the gourmet food. Holly and Chris have a combined 47 years of experience, and they plan on feeding your soul, your creative spirit, and your need to learn and grow in a nurturing environment. Your workshop experience will be customized to your ability, and tailored to your skill level, so whether you are a newbie or a seasoned veteran, we'll make sure you leave with something you are proud to own and wear. Gage Design Studio is well equipped with Jewelry, Metal Clay, and Lapidary equipment, so if you can imagine it, you can create it. We are nestled off the beaten path in the beautiful rolling hills of quiet Lancaster County.

Chef Chris will cater your retreat with his special brand of TLC in his meticulously prepared and locally sourced meals. Chris has been cooking and hosting retreats with Holly for over 20 years, and students are always ready to return for more.

### Single and Double Occupancy per person is \$1975

On location accommodations include a private bedroom and private bathroom on a separate floor.

### Groups up to 3 are welcome per person is \$1735

Accommodations are off location at your own expense.

### Spousal Rate is \$250

Does not include studio, bench, or lesson time.

### Optional Material Kits are available for your convenience (See Materials list for details of inclusion)

**Rough Opal Slab for Cabbing approx. 2 1/8" x 3" \$105**

**Fire-in-Place Opals and Opal Shards \$2.50 - \$45 each**

**Metal Clay Kit (depends on class selection) \$85 - \$135**

Prices include on-site accommodations, meals, teaching fees, bench fees, all tools, equipment, and firing.

Air flight is the responsibility of the student and is not included above.

Payment packages available. Please inquire.

### Your 3 Day Retreat Includes

- Arrival on Friday morning, 10:00 am
- Workshop Friday – Sunday, leaving Monday after breakfast
- (3) Nights, (3) day event
- (3) Breakfasts
- (3) Gourmet Lunches
- (3) Gourmet Dinners with dessert
- 2 - day Metal Clay Workshop with Holly Gage
- 1- day Lapidary Session with Chris Gage where you can

make 3 – 5 cabs depending on size for a single student.  
1 per student groups of 3.

- 24-hour Open Studio (Evenings are on your own with no instruction)
- Alfresco Dinner on our quiet, peaceful deck weather permitting.
- Evenings on your own to explore.
- Depart on Monday morning after breakfast

*Note: Any dining as a group away from the property will be covered by host*

## Details of Your Retreat Stay

### Cultured Opal Cutting with Chris Gage

This 1-day workshop will satisfy the Opal lover in you!

Opal cutting is fun and therapeutic as you cut and shape your opal until a smooth mirror finish. You'll start with your choice of rough opal material and select from a variety of template shapes. Using a title saw you will cut the rough shape of the cabochon, then using the 6 wheel professional lapidary machine you will shape, polish, and work your way through the various wheels until you have a beautiful stone you are proud to have and to hold. Time allotment, and size will determine how many stones you will be able to finish, approximately 3 – 5 per rough slab.

#### Material Kit: \$105

- Dopping Wax and Dop
- Rough Cultured Opal Slab for Cabbing approximately 2 1/8" x 3"
- Access to All Lapidary Equipment



### Metal Clay Workshop with Holly Gage

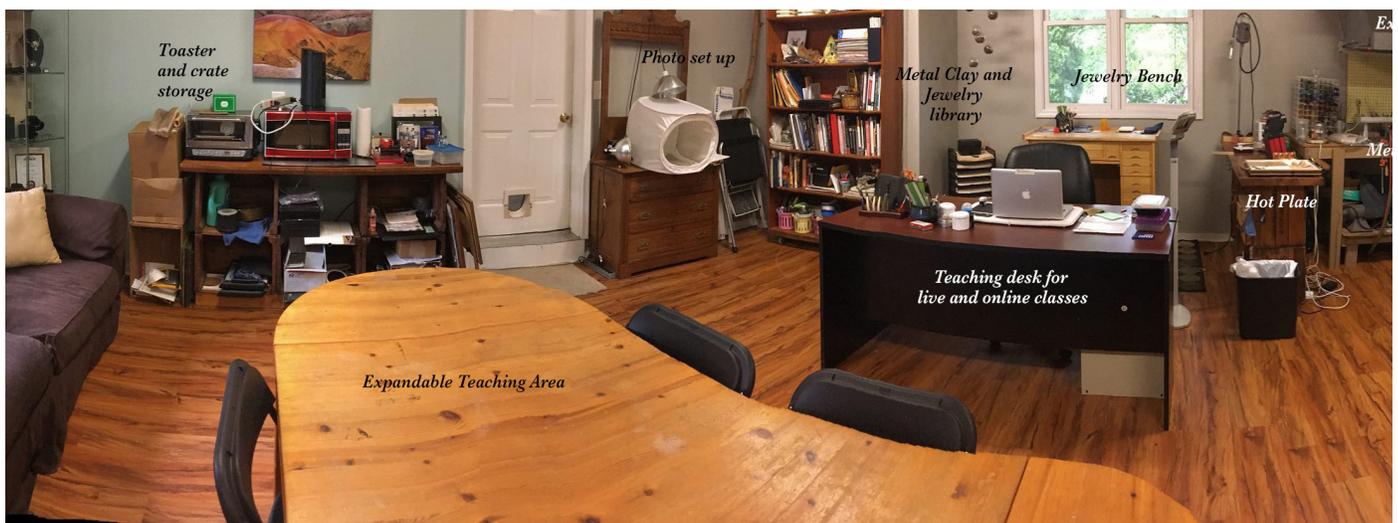
Select from 1 of 3 (2) day workshops. Holly has taught all over the world, and now you get a private one-to-one workshop of your choice. Each selection focuses on Cultured Opals. You can set your very own Opal made with Chris, using one of two unique bezel setting techniques, Bezel Setting like a Pro or Romancing the Stone: Reverse Bezel Setting. Alternately, you can try the Radiant Opal Pendant using the NEW Fire-in-Place Opals with intricate rotary tool carving and piercing techniques, and Opal Inlay. Each class has it's own unique techniques and skills to learn, taught at your own pace with design learning opportunities, well illustrated handout, demonstrations of each step, and as much hand holding as you need or not.



### Radiant Opal Pendant

Bold design and delicate textures surround beautiful Fire in Place Cultured Opals with a combination of surprising techniques. You'll create intricate open spaces and surface textures with your rotary tool and a variety of diamond burs in the greenware stage of your Silver Metal Clay. Yeah, your rotary tool! And it's easy on your hands!

Then you'll capture the allure of Heat-Resistant Cultured Opals having all the radiance and iridescence you love in a good quality Opal, but unlike Nature Opals, these can be fired at 1650° F or 900° C without burning up from the extreme heat needed to sinter the Metal Clay. After being told a long firing isn't probable, I went on a quest to figure out how to fire them in place in Metal Clay. After many tests and lots of trial and error, I figured out the secret of firing long and hot for strength without cracking the stones, discoloration, or hazing. I'm really excited about the possibilities, but more than that I can't wait to teach you.



### **Materials List: \$135**

30g Fine Silver Metal Clay, Fire in Place Opal Round Gems of your choice (\$45 allowance) Gem Burr to match,

Other shaped gems need a matching template 2 – 3 mm bigger than the stone, Super Sculpey Original® or Premo® Polymer Clay, Foam Shaper/Healing Tool, Rotary Tool, Diamond Burr Set, Carbon Paper, Ball Point Pen, 3M Polishing Paper Set, Tissue Blade, Small Pottery Loop Tool, Polishing Pads, 3M Polishing Points - 3mm, Eve® Bristle Brushes, Eve® Rubber Wheels, and Knife, Edge sets, Fused Silica Bead Firing Dish or Fiber bowl, Vermiculite, Grafix® Incredible White Mask, Liquid Frisket, Basic Tool Kit, Kiln.



How to Inlay Opal Shards is a “bonus” section to be discussed only.

Materials Needed: Art Resin® Epoxy Resin, Opal Shards or Crushed Opal, Toothpick, 3 Small Cups for mixing resin

### **Bezel Setting Like a Pro**

A fantastic stone needs a fantastic setting and in this workshop, that’s exactly what you’ll learn to make. The key to a professionally set stone is good craftsmanship and a clean, and well-finished bezel. This 2-part firing method of working with bezel setting and Metal Clay is clean and forgiving, so no soldering, no investment placeholder, no pull away from embedding the wire, no distortion, and the stone fits every time! During the class, you will learn design concepts surrounding the creation of a bezel for a stone of your choice using fine silver bezel wire. The bezel will be attached to a piece that has been designed and fired first. Afterward, you will attach the bezel to the rest of your piece and prepare for a second firing. Finally, the stone will be set and ready for the final touch. The result will have people wondering, “How did you do that?” So come and join me, and you too will be setting stones like a pro.

You will use the Opal cab you cut with Chris during your lapidary lesson.

“Evolved Design Exploration” will also be covered. It’s a guided method of finding your motivation and pushing yourself to new levels of awareness and evolving your design to the next creative level. Your perceptions are sharpened and your imagination can develop beyond what was previously available by going deeper within.

### **Materials List: \$85**

Cultured Opal Cabochon, 15 mm and up, PMC 3 or Art Clay Fine Silver, Art Clay Paste® type — brand specific, must be this brand), Glycerin, Fine Silver Bezel Wire — must go just above the curve of the stone or just above the height of a flat stone. Too high is better than too low. 26 – 30 gauge. (Up to a 15 mm stone, use a thinner gauge wire such as a 30 gauge. Larger stones use a thicker gauge wire such as 26 - 28. All, however, will work), 1/8 thick foam paper sponge applicator, Black Sharpie® Fine Point Marker, 400 grit sandpaper, 3 M polishing Papers®, Polishing cloth, Bench Block, Nylon, Plastic or Rawhide Mallet, Rotary tool Eve® Rubber Polishing Wheels and Knife-edge for Silver, Black (coarse), Blue (medium), Pink (fine) with mandrel for rotary tool Barrel-shaped Diamond Bur, 3M Radial Bristle Brushes 400 grit to fine, Tweezers (Cross-lock Optional), Flat, round, and chain nose pliers, Flush cutters, Basic Metal Clay Tools, and Textures, Burnisher or bezel rocker, Kiln.



## Romancing the Stone: Reverse Stone Setting

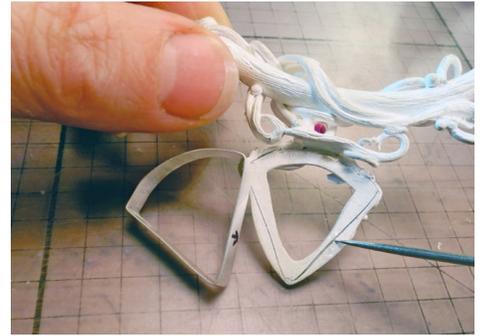
Delicate gems need special treatment and an extra-special setting. Many beautiful stones can not be fired in place, so when you wish to overlap the stone with details you add an additional challenge to the design of your piece. My solution is to set the gem from the back. It may sound as if you have to design the whole piece backward, but this is not the case. Not only that, but you can even make a reversible pendant if you so desire and it is much easier than you might imagine!

We will discuss a successful design to enhance the stone, bezel setting, tube bails, tube set gems, flush set gems, buds, snake charming, finishing techniques, and more. This is like my Bezel Setting Like a Pro Class on steroids!

You will use the Opal cab you cut with Chris during your lapidary lesson.

### Materials List: \$85

Cultured Opal Cabochon, PMC 3 or Low fire Art Clay, Art Clay Paste Type® (Brand-specific), Glycerin, Fine silver bezel wire the height of the stone, Texture plate, Extruder, and tube adapter, Carving tool or mini Dockyard® tools, Mascara brush (optional), 4 - 6 mm fire in place gem, Gem bur the size of the stone, Rotary tool, Eve® Rubber polishing wheels and knife-edge for Silver, blue (medium), pink (fine) for rotary tool, 3M Radial Bristle Brushes 400 grit to fine for rotary tool, 3M radial bristle discs coarse to fine for silver to fit your rotary tool, Bezel rocker or burnisher, Basic Tool Kit, Torch or Kiln.



## Day to Day Itinerary

### Friday, Day 1

10:00 am – 1:00 pm Lapidary Lesson with Christopher  
1:00 pm Lunch  
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Lapidary Cutting  
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Dinner  
Evening 24 hour Open Studio (Evenings are on your own with no instruction)

### Saturday, Day 2

8:00 am – 9:00 am Breakfast  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm Metal Clay Workshop with Holly  
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch  
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Working on your project  
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Al fresco Dinner with Wine, weather permitting  
Evening 24 hour Open Studio (Evenings are on your own with no instruction)

### Sunday, Day 3

8:00 am – 9:00 am Breakfast  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm Metal Clay Workshop with Holly  
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch  
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Working on your project  
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Al fresco Dinner with Wine, weather permitting  
Evening 24 hour Open Studio (Evenings are on your own with no instruction)

### Monday, Departure

8:00 am – 9:00 am Breakfast  
10:00 Departure

## Accommodations:

Our guest room is on the second floor with a Full sized bed. It can accommodate 1 to 2 people who would sleep in the same bed, so it is suitable for a couple or close friends.

The full bathroom is on a separate floor.

Wifi is available.

Groups of 3 or more can stay at Bed and Breakfasts or Hotels nearby 15 minutes from our studio.



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## Your Retreat Team

### Your Master Instructor: Holly Gage

Holly enjoys creating contemporary fine art jewelry. The need to create is an essential and personal form of self-expression. Sculptural forms, pictorial scenes, and symbolic use of materials and imagery replace words as a form of communication. She welcomes others into her world by means of her jewelry designs in an effort to share stories, an intimate slice of life, idealistic thought or deep emotion.

Holly enjoys exploring and developing new techniques and teaching her findings to others who possess a similar curiosity and a thirst to learn. She has her BS in Fine Art and Education and is a certified Metal Clay instructor, mentor, and speaker teaching live, real time classes online, locally in Pennsylvania as well as nationally and internationally. Awards include the 2015 Saul Bell 2nd Place Winner, Narcissus Award, Silver Prize Winner in the Art Clay category Fire Mountain. Her jewelry and articles on techniques and design can be found in over 75+ regional and national publications including Handmade Magazine, who to watch 2016, On the cover of the Best of American Jewelry Artist, The PMC Guild Annual 1, 2, 3 & 4 Setting Stones in Metal Clay, Metal Clay Beads, Metal Clay Today, and more. You can find more information about Holly's jewelry, awards, classes tips, and blogs on her website at [HollyGage.com](http://HollyGage.com)



### Lapidarist and Chef Christopher Gage

Chris has become renowned for his unique Artisan cut Cultured Opals. He is now sharing his delicate-touch techniques with students of all abilities. Chris shared his burn survivor's trauma story in an uplifting podcast interview with Rio Grande's For the Love of Jewelers.

The trauma he suffered was so intense that it altered the course of his life, and his positive attitude throughout an incredibly challenging ordeal allowed Chris to use the Lapidary arts for healing, both physically and mentally.

Chris has been honing his cooking craft professionally for over 20 years, catering gourmet food at various events and retreats around the U.S. and Internationally. Never forgetting his roots as a Chef, Chris prepares and serves gourmet meals, by combining his flare and love of cooking with the fresh, local ingredients available from the many farms surrounding the Lancaster County area.

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## Policies, Dining, Weather, and Transportation:

### Registration Policy:

Reservations are on a first come, first served basis. All bookings require a 50% deposit, balance is due 60 days prior to your arrival date. Payment package available, please inquire. Deposits can be made by secured pay pal account, wire, or express mail by check. In order to hold a reservation we must receive the deposit within ten days of the booking.

### Cancellation and refund policy:

Reservations can be canceled up to 45 days before check-in. This means you will receive a full refund or you can reschedule your retreat for another time, subject to availability.

Reservations canceled 7 days or less will be subject to a full refund, minus \$250 per person for food, and preparations, etc.

For 100% refund, you may sell your seat to another student with all transfer of funds remaining between you and the participant. Gage Design Studio will not be responsible for re-filling any reservation previously made. Please notify your host about the change.

### Extenuating Circumstances

In instances such as death of an immediate relative, natural disaster, Covid or other illness, you may reschedule your retreat for another time. Valid proof will be required to provide supporting documentation for your circumstance.

Reservations canceled 7 days or less will be subject to a full refund, minus \$250 per person for food, and preparations, etc.

Please don't come if you have a temperature, you are sick, or you have been exposed to someone who is ill without testing negative of the illness. Chris and Holly are both immune compromised.

