



## “PLAY WELL”

**Robert Dancik**, whose life's motto is “play well,” is that rare combination of an inspired artist who is also an inspiring teacher. His workshops cover many techniques, but always focus on combining materials to support the expression of an idea. “All artistic endeavors, even drawing, rely on putting at least two materials together. Is there a reason to use only one material if it doesn't permit full expression? Choice equals freedom.”



Robert finds artistic inspiration in daily life through collecting found objects (especially those referencing boats and maps), cruising the aisles in the hardware or office supply store, or cooking. He reads voraciously, studies catalogs on obscure subjects, samples worldwide music, and collects toys. And that's all before he ever sits down in his studio to “work.”

One guiding principle in his creative process is to be aware of the associations that different materials, different surface textures, and different finishes might convey. For example, concrete can imply permanence, or marks, scratches and patina imply the passing of time, but a smooth material like plexiglass or faux bone might carry fewer references. He suggests that artists

let their desired outcome be their guide. “It is the idea that steers the work, not the fascination with a material or showing off a technique. No material is outside the purview of the artist, but materials, processes and procedures are only useful if they allow you to better express yourself.”

His many students always comment on how generous Robert is with his technical expertise as well as the artistic challenges and encouragement he bestows. He has written thoughtfully about his teaching philosophy and about overcoming artistic blocks. Robert will be at the Peninsula School of Art, in beautiful Door County, Wisconsin, for six days of intense and joyful creation in our mixed media studio. You can sign up for either or both of his classes.

## **Forming Lasting & Meaningful (Cold) Connections August 2-4, 2010**

In this extensive practical workshop, explore ways of attaching almost anything to almost anything else to enhance the messaging in your work. This workshop has applications for ALL artists, including jewelers, artists, sculptors and book artists. Students will delve into a broad spectrum of materials including epoxies, concrete, polymer clays, Faux Bone, and paper pulp mache. They will also learn to utilize the full range of cold connections to use in tandem with these materials.



## **Faux Bone Transformed: A Most Versatile Material**

**August 5-7, 2010**

Students will explore the unlimited possibilities of this amazing medium, Faux Bone™, that can take on the look of ivory, mimic the patina of aged ceramic, or be polished to pure white. Faux Bone is strong enough to be hammered, drilled or carved, malleable enough to bend with a small embossing heat gun, and versatile enough to accept dyes or paints. It is so strong you can rivet on it, die-form right on it, or hammer metal around it. Jeweler, sculptor, assemblage artist, toolmaker, book artist: Robert encourages you to explore as many of



the manipulations of Faux Bone™ as possible

Robert Dancik has an MA in sculpture and a BA in fine art. He has taught for over 30 years to students from kindergarten to graduate school, and exhibited jewelry and sculpture worldwide. He splits his time between his homes in Connecticut and in Cornwall, England.