

# THE ART OF METAL TOOLING



# METAL TOOLING

Metalworking is a science, art, hobby, industry and trade. Its historical roots span cultures, civilizations, and millennia. Metalworking has evolved from the discovery of smelting various ores, producing malleable and ductile metal useful for tools and adornments.

Funeral Mask of King Tutankhamen, **Egyptian**, 1324 BC.

# What is embossing or tooling into metal?

- When you emboss metal, you participate in an art form that has existed for centuries.
- Metal embossing is used to impart a design on metal sheets. The metal is pushed with an embossing tool or stylus in order to create a raised effect on the opposite side.
- By placing the metal sheet on a rubber or foam pad, the positive impression has a smooth surface that will shine or can take pigment.



# Repoussé



Agememnon's Funeral Mask



Gold Mycenaean Cup

- Repoussé is a method of metalworking.
- Like embossing however a little more aggressive.
- the technique takes a sheet of metal and uses a hammering method from the reverse side to create a design in low relief design.

# Repoussé

In French repoussé means “pushed out”.



Gary Dadyan, a Russian artist, is tapping the repoussé tools into the sheet of metal using a small hammer.

# Metal Embossing Origin

- The metal embossing began in Iran “Persia” (approximately 550 to 330 BC). The popularity of the craft spread around the globe and through the ages.
- It was especially popular during the Middle Ages (A.D. 400-about 1400) otherwise know as Medieval Period, when metal-smiths hammered designs into suits of armor.



- The best known example of repoussé is the **Statue of Liberty** by Frederic Auguste Barthodi



# Repousse is a Craft Because...





# Repousse is a Craft Because....

- The craft was taught to young apprentices in a guild.
- The apprentice would work with the artisan and learn how to correctly work with the metal.
- Their apprenticeship would last for many years till they earned their reputation for their great skill.
- A person who works with metal is called a metalsmith.



# Repousse is a Craft Because....



- A **metalsmith** or simply **smith** is a craftsman fashioning useful items out of various metals.
  - Ex. tools, kitchenware, jewelry, weapons
- **Smithing** is one of the oldest metalworking occupations.

**Repoussé is a popular technique of making jewelry.**



# Successful Metal Work

- clear patterns
- crisp images and lines.



