

## **Kathy Buszkiewicz Artist Statement**

**I consider myself an interpreter of contemporary culture. The work's objective focuses on perceptions of VALUE.**

**The creations are multi-layered, intertwining the use of materials, concepts, process, and play on words. This hopefully arouses the viewer to ponder current issues, personal and societal values beyond the obvious.**

**As a trained metalsmith-jeweler, I use the body instrumentally as a metaphor for the whole of mankind. The intimate yet public format of jewelry and larger wearable neckpieces serve as a vehicle to deliver messages of social significance. Identifiable forms and objects are used for their communicative capacity and assist as carriers of meaning. The work explores topics relating to materialism, environmentalism, commodities exchange, assumptions of worth and cultural value.**

**US currency and precious metals are effectual symbolic tools when paired with objects to identify what culture prescribes as valuable. They have psychological power and influence opinion and behavior. Each piece deceptively lures the viewer into believing it is purely a beautiful object. Upon closer observation, repetitive images, patterns or words emphasize the work's concept. Altered bills no longer hold intrinsic worth. The crafting of worthless material questions greater values - Beauty? Concepts? Spirit? Time?**

**Transformation of materials fulfills my need to make. Informing, provoking or amusing the viewer satisfies my need to contribute thoughtfully to our society.**