

Christine Kristen (a.k.a. LadyBee): Burning Man Jewelry Collection CAE2225

Introduction/Abstract

Materials in this archive include Burning Man jewelry in various media collected by Lady Bee from on the playa as gift exchanges, as well as from individual artists throughout the years.

Biographical Note: Christine Kristen (a.k.a. LadyBee)

Christine Kristen (a.k.a LadyBee) is Burning Man's Archivist, Art Collection Manager and Photo Gallery editor. She was Burning Man's art curator from 1999 to 2008, where she dealt with all things visual and aesthetic, including managing the art and the art grant program, photo-editing the Image Gallery, writing art content for the Burning Man website, working with the ARTery, managing the archives, and lecturing and writing about the art of Burning Man. She is the co-author of "The Jewelry of Burning Man", with Karen Christians and George Post, and the curator of the exhibition "PlayaMade: Jewelry of Burning Man", which debuted at the Fuller Craft Museum near Boston in 2017. It opened at the Bellevue Arts Museum in Seattle in January 2020. Lady Bee has an MFA in sculpture from the Art Institute of Chicago.

Scope and Content

Jewelry is an integral part of the Burning Man event and has many uses, including fostering personal connections. The creative and communal spirit, along with the symbols of Burning Man, are finely crafted into pressed glass coins, lakebed-clay charms, inlaid wood pendants, intricate necklaces, and many other pieces of jewelry—all given freely during the event without the expectation of compensation. This practice is in accordance with the second of Burning Man's Ten Principles—Gifting.

In 2015, Karen Christians, Cristine Kristen (aka LadyBee), and George Post published the book *Jewelry of Burning Man*, that celebrates a collection of Burning Man jewelry from 1995 to 2013.

The 2017 exhibition *Playa Made: The Jewelry of Burning Man* was curated by Christine Kristen. The exhibition included over 200 pieces by 60 artists and toured to three venues from 2017 – 2021. Featured works ranged from handmade pieces from professional jewelers, such as Thomas Mann and Kenn Kushner, to pieces designed by burners and manufactured commercially.

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This archive is currently in process.