Jewelry-inspired and wearable artwork will shine and shimmer in this exhibition. Visitors to the Post Office windows will be drawn to the "wow" factor.

Some work will reflect traditional jewelry trends while other work may go "over the top" into the realm of non-wearable art.

## **Featured Artists**

Mary Bates Neubauer, of Chandler, is the head of the sculpture department at Arizona State University's School of Art. She received a bachelor of fine arts degree from Colorado State University,



a master of fine arts degree from Indiana University and a Fulbright Fellowship. She has shown her work nationally and internationally, and is an artist.

teacher, guest lecturer and instructor around the country and abroad. She describes her sculptures as "permanent transcriptions of urban, global and cosmic functions."

Mesa artist Jan Larsen is a woman of many talents. She is an artist and an instructor at Mesa Community College. But originally, she was trained as a marine biologist and worked as an engineer. Over the years she has explored a variety of media including papermaking,



bookbinding, collage, beading, stained glass and fine jewelry. By beading over armatures, Larsen is able to make relatively large wearable sculptures. Even though each one is made from hundreds, sometimes thousands of beads, they retain a light and weightless quality.

Exhibitions at the United States Post Office highlight local artists working in a variety of media and themes. Space is located in the heart of the Mill Avenue district. Special emphasis is placed on work that is fun, eye-catching and unusual.

## **Art Connections Café**

with Mary Bates Neubauer Noon, March 22

Connections Café
Tempe Public Library
3500 S. Rural Road
www.tempe.gov/arts/events/cafe.htm

Since 2000, Kimberly Nikolaev, of Chandler, has been the owner and chief designer for Nikolaev Designs, a design and manufacturing firm that creates and markets a limited collection line and custom art jewelry. In all, she as spent 13 years as an entrepreneur and small business owner, 12 years in the



corporate/creative services management field and 28 years involved in jewelry design trade. She has exhibited work in Chicago, Denver, Phoenix and Zurich, Switzerland. She was formally trained as a metal smith at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, but she began working with metal at age 16.



Tempe resident

Velta Wieters didn't
start making art until
she was 68 years
old. She began making gifts for family
and friends and later
collectors and galleries. Her designs

come out of a love of color and humor. Wieter's creations are an eclectic mix of sculpture, folk art, collage and found objects. She uses anything and everything in her work including paint, glue, buttons, ribbon, costume jewelry, feathers and even hubcaps. Some of the pieces are functional household items like Dust Busters, while other pieces are produced for pure joy.