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Jewelry techniques as a means of embodying artistic image in teaching students metal art processing

Abstract. The study is dedicated to the process of students searching for appropriate jewelry techniques suitable for executing an artistic project in material. Factors influencing the choice of jewelry techniques and materials are analyzed based on final qualifying projects from the year 2025 conducted by students of secondary vocational education at the institute of traditional applied arts. The analysis of jewelry projects presented in the study reveals key features of the artistic image that must be taken into account when selecting jewelry techniques and materials. Detailed analysis of composition contributes significantly to ensuring high-quality production of jewelry pieces.

Keywords: jewelry art, jewelry techniques, jewelry design, project, professional skills, secondary vocational education, artistic image, final qualifying work.

Introduction

This paper continues the investigation aimed at identifying the peculiarities of transforming natural forms in the training of future jewelers [5]. An artistic jewelry project is realized by a prospective jeweler through the application of jewelry techniques. The selection of jewelry techniques is determined by the compositional characteristics of the jewelry item, including its volume, shape and color scheme. Producing a piece of jewelry requires the student to not only materialize the artistic concept in the project but also transform it into a tangible unique artifact – a piece of jewelry or a set of jewelry items. This necessitates careful selection of materials, understanding of their physical and chemical properties and choosing and utilizing jewelry techniques that best convey the intended artistic vision.

The aim of the study is to analyze the compositional components of jewelry – the structure and spatial-volumetric form – that affect the choice of jewelry techniques most suited for manufacturing the product.

Currently, there exists a range of scientific publications in domestic scholarship devoted to the specifics of educating future jewelry artists. In his dissertation research, D.S. Dronov [3] explores the creation and implementation of a pedagogical model for professional education of jewelers, with the focus on developing learners' professional skills. M.V. Churakova's dissertation thesis [10] defines the notion of 'professional mastery' in relation to jewelry art and presents the interrelation of disciplines within the professional cycle of jewelry art education. E.V. Efremov [4] developed a structurally functional model for enhancing the

content of jewelry artistry training, based on personality-oriented, systemic activity-based, and integrative approaches. N.D. Dronova, I.K. Drakina and K.Zh. Amirgazin [2] investigated the specificity of design education in jewelry art, highlighting the integration of its content with other related disciplines necessary for producing a jewelry design project.

However, the problem of students choosing the most appropriate jewelry technique for realizing an artistic project remains insufficiently studied and demands separate research attention.

Materials and methods

The article analyzes final qualifying works of students from the department of jewelry art at the institute of traditional applied arts, produced in 2025, covering both artistic projects and corresponding finished jewelry items. These works investigate the specifics of composition that influence the choice of materials and jewelry techniques. Through the analysis of final qualifying works, the article reflects upon students' choices of jewelry techniques that provide the fullest and most accurate realization of the project in material terms.

Research outcomes

Creating jewelry is the principal activity carried out by students in the course "Mastery in jewelry art". Any jewelry item is manufactured based on an artistic project, which, according to N.V. Sevryukova, demonstrates the student's capacity for interpreting and stylistically adapting objects to create an expressive image [7]. Developing and embodying an "artistic project for a jewelry item implies possessing knowledge, skills and practical experience in the technological processes involved, synthesizing technical and artistic aspects of jewelry design" [9, p. 143].

Jewelry techniques studied by students, such as filigree, enameling and engraving, have specific characteristics shaped by centuries-old traditions [6]. Depending on these characteristics, the composition of the jewelry item is formed and the material selected corresponds most appropriately to the chosen jewelry technique.

Completion of a final qualifying work provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate their acquired practical skills. Utilizing various materials such as hot enamel, pearl, different types of gemstones and organic minerals requires students to apply the knowledge, skills and competencies gained through specialized subjects. Essential competencies related to material usage and jewelry techniques are developed in courses such as "Material studies" and "Mastery in jewelry art", and then refined in "Design" classes. Consequently, students' final qualifying works serve as reflections of the knowledge obtained through professional subjects, exemplifying their ability to "independently produce jewelry items professionally and creatively solve projects at a high standard and full extent" [8, p. 164].

Let's consider an example of a final qualifying work – a brooch titled "Summer multicoloredness" – created using sophisticated jewelry techniques (Figs. 1³⁶, 2).

³⁶ Figs. 1-4. Photos by the author of the article.

The basis of the composition is a bouquet of wildflowers. The image of blue and white flowers is executed using the corner setting technique, wherein stones are fixed in metal surfaces using corners made with a cornevert tool (“cornevyortka”). Using this stone setting technique preserved the lightness and elegance of the flower buds specified in the project. The flower buds echo the ears of grain, whose grains are secured in “marquise”-shaped casts using cramp-set technique. The project utilizes a combination of two metals – brass and nickel silver – which represent different kinds of grass depicted in the project. The stems of the grasses are tied with a bow created using repoussé technique to add volume. The central element of the composition is a daisy flower, whose execution required combining several jewelry techniques. The daisy is the herbaceous plant with petals arranged in several rows, having smooth texture and white hue.



Fig. 1. Gulayeva A.A. Art-graphic project of the final qualifying work on the theme "Summer multicoloredness" (brooch). 2025. Supervisor: N.V. Sevryukova



Fig.2. Gulayeva A.A. Brooch "Summer multicoloredness". Final qualifying work. 2025. Supervisor: N.V. Sevryukova

To convey the volume of the plant, the student created three levels of petals attached to a threaded pin. To replicate the smoothness and shade of the petals, pearl was employed, commonly used in jewelry as a decorative insert. The student mastered the technique of cutting pearl parts and processing them into the fine petal shapes dictated by the project, alternating with corner setting. Thus, the brooch "Summer multicoloredness" incorporated the following materials: brass, nickel silver, synthetic stones and pearl, along with jewelry techniques: corner and cramp settings, repoussé, engraving and pearl treatment. Combining these jewelry techniques resulted in an elegant design with detailed precision.

Another example of a final qualifying work characterized by the combination of complex jewelry techniques is the brooch entitled "Beauty of magic rose" (Figs. 4, 5).

The brooch depicts a branch adorned with a large voluminous rose surrounded by leaves and buds. The expressiveness of the leaves is achieved through alternating stones of varying diameters, enhanced by corner setting for added brilliance. The silhouette of the rose complements the blue stones imitating tiny buds of small flowering plants. Different casting forms were used to implement the cramp-set technique, thus accentuating the rose against the foliage. The stem of the rose is made of metal with varying thickness, incorporating techniques such as piercing, repoussé and engraving.



Fig. 3. Sorokina E.A. Art-graphic project of the final qualifying work on the theme "Beauty of magic rose" (brooch). 2025.
Supervisor: N.V. Sevryukova



Fig. 4. Sorokina E.A. Brooch "Beauty of magic rose".
Final qualifying work. 2025.
Supervisor: N.V. Sevryukova

Roses in nature feature large blooms with airy petals of smooth texture and uniform coloring. To capture these characteristics – lightness, smoothness and solid tone – in the petals, the student utilized pearl. Not only did the student master the technique of cutting and shaping pearl pieces, but also their coloring. Initially white pearl surfaces underwent painting, followed by varnish coating. This allowed the student to achieve the desired visual lightness, uniform shading and shine on the pearl surface. Pearl is mounted onto a preformed metallic base. Following the project requirements, the brooch "Beauty of magic rose" incorporated the following materials: nickel silver, synthetic stones and pearl. Among the jewelry techniques implemented were corner and cramp stone settings, repoussé, pearl treatment and engraving. The resulting metal brooch embodies the gracefulness and delicacy envisioned in the project, thanks to the optimal choice of jewelry techniques for the artistic image.

Conclusion

Embodying an artistic image in jewelry art is closely linked to students' proficient command of jewelry techniques. The process of forming and decoratively

reinterpreting natural forms facilitates the high-quality manufacture of jewelry pieces. Students whose final qualifying works were featured in this study carefully analyzed the embodied images during the design phase, ranging from the form, color, outline and structure of the chosen flowers to the selection of jewelry materials. Through meticulous analysis, unremarkable metal blanks in the form of plates and wires, fragile inserts of stones and pearl and complex floral shapes were transformed into delicate and lightweight jewelry pieces rich in decorative metalworking techniques. Therefore, "understanding professional mastery of a jewelry artist can be defined as a high level of manual artistic skill in creating jewelry pieces" [1, p. 54].

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