Entropy is terrifying. There’s really no getting around that fact. The knowledge that our universe is inching its way closer and closer to total disorder, that every bit of matter and energy will someday irreversibly dissolve into chaos, should scare us. We are no closer to discovering how to reverse the disorder that springs up from the conversion of work to energy and vice versa than our cavemen ancestors. It hasn’t even been two centuries since we attempted to domesticate entropy by giving a name to the fact that not only will human creations never work perfectly, energy itself is finite.

But such an omnipresent and striking phenomenon cannot lack grandeur. With my art, I wanted to find some way to capture fears about entropy and turn it into something beautiful. I was inspired by the “controlled chaos” of both Haute Couture fashion spreads and the over-the-top glitz and glamour of the Irish dance competitions I attended in my childhood. I chose sheet brass because it is both dramatic and functional, and used thin green wire to set off the sheen of the metal. Every cut and curl of the metal required a tremendous amount of time and forearm strength, and I felt that I had to expend a considerable amount of energy for even the smallest changes to occur.

I chose to do a jewelry spread because it provided the opportunity to create multiple pieces that shared similar physical and metaphorical themes. The Boltzman hair piece was designed around the inevitability of entropy. The individual strands of metal twist and curl downwards into a central S in order to represent how all energy must eventually be converted to entropy. The Clausius earrings stretch down from a mundane piece of wire into dramatic curlicues, just as Clausius used the pragmatic writings of Carnot to develop the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics. The Carnot ring turns from a solid strip of metal into multiple curling branches to represent how Carnot was able to synthesize the existing knowledge about work and energy in his day into an idea that would inspire the great minds who followed him, such as Clausius, Boltzman, and Kelvin. I named my spread “The Chaos Collection” as an homage to entropy and as a play on words- I hoped that with my jewelry, I had “collected”, or captured, my own feelings about entropy. Thus, a semblance of order has been inspired by chaos.

**Bibliography**
