

Designing jewellery and learning to make it.

Good design is way more important than being able to make a technically correct clever piece of precious metal jewellery whether you are making an artwork to flaunt the wealth of your family or to entertain, decorate and create a conversation piece.

Design is derailed when the elements used do not come together as a wearer friendly design - pleasing to the eye. We have design skills and in tackling jewellery making they can get lost because the technical skills involved in expressing our concepts are too difficult to get the finished result we pictured.

We are here to explore design and learn how to interpret design ideas into completed precious metal jewellery.

I can influence your lifetime learning journey by showing you some techniques and interpretations used in making wearable jewellery trinkets.

Hundreds of hours of brain storming and practice will make your jewellery objects of desire which become collectables.

The first 12 weeks of a Betty jewellery group will explore

- Work safety – auditing your practice and workplace for good health and happiness
- Making a tool collection and caring for the tools
- Picking a dodgy jewellery design and knowing how to do it better
- Finding and exploring shared community resources such as internet research tools and data sites, libraries, gem club, markets, exhibitions and displays
- sawing and piercing sheet metal to make little pendants, links, ear ring parts, connectors
- manipulating wire to make hooks, loops, catches, jumprings, rosary and charm style chains
- soldering jumprings, layers on fretwork, cabochon settings
- jewellery finishing, jewellery finishing and jewellery finishing
- basic jewellery photography.
- Presentation of jewellery
- Journal – book of ideas

With these basic skills you can make jewellery at home and have the choice of doing production work for sale if you choose

When your work is good enough to sell it is good enough to give as a gift.

Seconds are not for sale or gifting – scrap them – recover the materials and start over. Second best is never good enough.

You will only become skilled by practice - doing repetitive work – over and over

Production jewellery

example

- make a decorative ear ring part for pendant ear rings
 - do a right and left piece if appropriate.
 - Remake the part if you know you can improve on it.
 - Send your model to a caster and order as many copies as you want in gold or silver in raw castings or finished castings.
 - Make your ear ring hooks, jump rings and other parts such as glass, pearls, gemstone material or another fabricated piece of metal.
 - Give some thought to presentation of your finished artwork – packaging and display indicates the value you place on the piece of jewellery someone else will be wearing. The design elements used in

creating your ear rings can be included on a card with ear rings attached. Make it personal. Your intellectual property is on the line. Respect for your skills will follow if your attention to detail sets your work apart as precious, beautiful, personal – etc

- With your own personal designer links you can make 20 different pairs of ear rings by mixing and matching the components in each pair. If you are gifting you will select colour to compliment the wearer and length of the ear ring pendant to compliment the facial features and neck length of the wearer.

Materials we can use-

- copper and brass for practice work and for beading
- Nickel silver – beading or sheet work – it can be soldered
- Titanium sheet or wire
- Silver- sheet, wire, granules in fine silver, sterling, argentium sterling.
- PMC – precious metal clay – great design material for embedding pattern into silver and making pattern pieces for reproduction.
- Gold of various carats
- Gemstones
- Glass, pearls, and all the beading materials
- Commercial findings
- Found objects
- Organic material – bone, horn, coral
- And so on and on!

Some techniques you can see or explore.

1. alloying metals
2. melting, beating and recovering silver to learn it's properties
3. alloying and rolling out solder
4. making wire
5. rolling out sheet silver
6. hand and mechanical polishing
7. AND ON AND ON

This time next year this group can pool resources to have an exhibition of your work OR piggy back as students when I exhibit. If your work is up to the standard I demand for sale you do not need to be in my shadow.

A successful student

- learns to fly in their own direction
- can exploit technology to free up jewellery making time
- is a group worker capable of brain storming rather than guarding jewellery secrets
- develops a friendship rather than dependency on their instructors
- learns to see and interpret information to design contemporary jewellery
- acknowledges the use of other peoples ideas and intellectual property
- learns to interpret a concept into a drawing which can be made by any jewellery maker
- learns the technical and mechanical skills to make their own pieces
- outsourcers to professionals to get a better finish
- **LEARNS SELF PROMOTION DIRECTED AT JEWELLERY PROMOTION & SALES**

Betty Porteus – December 2010

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