

SINCE
1947

LAPIDARY JOURNAL JEWELRY ARTIST

DECEMBER
2014



Make these
**JASPER
EARRINGS**

page 22

How to make
your own
**Wedding
Rings** *easier than
you think!*

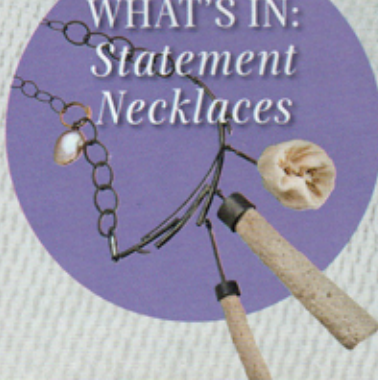


Easy Ways to
**MIX METAL
WITH WOOD**

Quick Earring and
Bracelet Demos inside!

Noël Yovovich's
Wedding Ring
page 32

WHAT'S IN:
*Statement
Necklaces*



PLUS

- Mixed Media
Tools & Techniques
- China and the Gem Trade



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ABOUT OUR COVER:

Noël Yovovich's Wedding Ring, page 32

Lexi Erickson's Poppy Jasper Earrings, page 22

PHOTOS: JIM LAWSON

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THEIR TURN

a gallery of this issue's contributors



LAUREL NATHANSON'S Square Rings

Copper, enamel, resin

"Add Wood to Your Metalwork"
Page 18

PHOTO: COURTESY
LAUREL NATHANSON



ALEKSANDRA VALI'S Emotions Held Captive Ring

Sterling silver, drusy agate, 20K gold

"Second Nature"
Page 56

PHOTO: COURTESY ALEKSANDRA VALI



BRUCE HARTMAN'S Lapis Peacock Pendant

Reticulated silver with fused fine silver granules, lapis lazuli with 22K gold bezel

"Second Nature"
Page 56

PHOTO: STEN HARTMAN



GRANT ROBINSON'S Tree of Knowledge Push-Puppet Pendant

Malachite, pearl, vitreous enamel, 18K yellow gold

"Flowerpot Pendant with a Secret"
Page 48

"Second Nature" Page 56

PHOTO: GRANT ROBINSON

Second Nature



The natural world is a
perennial source of inspiration

BY CATHLEEN MCCARTHY

Aleksandra Vall
Juicy Accents Brooch
Sterling silver, red coral



learn more
from cathleen
mccarthy

Net Profits (page 10)

Holiday Selling
(web seminar)

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the 1970s — Hartman began his Wave series by carving free-form matte-finish layers into polished carnelian, then building the granulated part in fine silver, with a prong to hold the stone in place instead of a conventional bezel.

Nature Comes to Life

While most nature-themed jewelry is static, nature itself rarely is. Some jewelers incorporate an element of movement to bring their wearable flora and fauna to life. With articulated jewelry, this happens as the wearer moves.

So Young Park often threads tiny metal wires through holes in her pieces, soldering a little anchor on the back so they move slightly as the wearer moves, a subtle motion similar to seaweed swaying in a current. Like Park, Aleksandra Vali draws her inspiration from sea life and woodlands, sometimes adding articulated parts. “I like that the moveable bits move along with you,” Vali says.

Both artists make jewelry rife with the textures and shapes found in nature, and both tend to focus on details. You recognize the sea life or flora instinctively but can’t quite tell what you’re looking at.

“My biggest inspiration is nature. Nothing is perfect, just nature,” Vali says. “But we are trying to make something else also, as an artist, and that’s why I’m absorbing all nature and evolving that through my jewelry.”

Vali is particularly fascinated by seedpods, coral, and shells, all of which she collects obsessively. They show up in her jewelry,

both literally and figuratively. Her hammered sterling often takes the form of pods or sea-worn coral and the “gems” she chooses set in them are often gnarly bits of shell, made beautiful with droplet-like diamond accents. Or she clusters seed-like beads of red coral in hammered sterling pods.

“I think there is nothing more perfect than seedpods,” Vali says. “If you start collecting art, you have to spend a lot of money on it, but when your collection comes from nature, you can just collect all you want, put it on a shelf, organize it somehow. And it’s so beautiful. You can look at it from different angles and it will inspire you. I love to be outside, relaxing and looking around. Enjoying life is my inspiration.”

ABOVE, FROM LEFT
Aleksandra Vali
Anatomy of Time Brooch and
Pendant
Sterling silver, druzy agate,
24K gold

Aleksandra Vali
Le Mirage Ring
Oxidized sterling silver, shell,
diamonds

BELOW
Aleksandra Vali
Recollection Brooch
Sterling silver, 22K gold
PHOTO: COURTESY
ALEKSANDRA VALI

