

HEDY LAMARR

1914-2000 HOLLYWOOD BOMBSHELL & SCIENTIST



Hedy Lamarr was a fascinating figure known for her contributions to both Hollywood and science. As an actress, she achieved fame in the 1930s and 1940s, starring in films such as "Algiers" and "Samson and Delilah." Lamarr's beauty and talent made her one of Hollywood's leading ladies.

However, Lamarr's interests extended beyond the silver screen. She had a passion for science and invention. During World War II, she co-patented a frequency-hopping technology, intended to prevent the interception of radio-controlled torpedoes. This pioneering work laid the foundation for modern-day Wi-Fi and Bluetooth technology.

Hedy Lamarr lived for exquisite jewellery. She was often seen wearing glamorous and elegant pieces, complementing her sophisticated style. Lamarr's personal style and grace were often enhanced by the addition of statement necklaces, sparkling earrings, and luxurious bracelets.

Her legacy encompasses her Hollywood career and her groundbreaking contributions to science. Her combination of beauty, talent, and intellect continues to inspire and captivate audiences to this day.

Hedy's necklace was initially a challenge. She has such an interesting history. I was intrigued by her conversion from Judaism to Catholicism during the wars, so I began with a silver Hamsa with a Jewish motif, then added all the other hamsas as they have great protective significance from the five fingers to the open and closed hand.. Note the Moroccan silver pendant at the base of her necklace in the photo - it's similar to the one I've used. Lapis was Hedy's birthstone, silver is used in computers, and so is crystal - I've packed them all in. The necklace on the right is also ancient crystal, silver and rare hand faceted cubed Afghani lapis, but with a magnificent embossed antique pendant from Rajasthan.



MARY ANNING

1799-1847 FOSSIL HUNTER & PALEONTOLOGIST



Mary Anning was a remarkable fossil hunter and paleontologist who made significant contributions to the field of paleontology in the 19th century. Born in Lyme Regis, England, Anning spent much of her life searching for fossils along the cliffs of the Jurassic Coast, starting with her father when she was a young child. Her discoveries expanded our understanding of fossils that challenged the prevailing belief that extinction was a rare occurrence, and helped establish the concept of deep time.

She faced numerous challenges, including social and gender barriers, but her expertise and determination earned her recognition among scientists of her time. She communicated with prominent paleontologists, shaping the emerging field of paleontology and laid the foundation for future research. She had limited resources and opportunities available to her as a working-class woman in the early 19th century so she relied on her keen observational skills, extensive knowledge of the local geology, and sheer perseverance to make groundbreaking discoveries.

Today, Mary Anning is recognized as one of the most important figures in the history of paleontology. Her legacy continues to inspire aspiring scientists and advocates for women's contributions to the field.

I doubt if Mary Anning ever had the time or inclination for wearing jewellery. It was fossils she loved, so what better way to celebrate her contribution to evolution than with a diadem of real fossils. The necklace on the left is made with ancient ammonites, conservatively 300 million years old. I mixed them with old Moroccan silver because these represent the medals that Mary should have received, but didn't in her lifetime. In the middle is a collar made of Baltic amber, mixed with fresh water pearls, black coral prayer beads and gold. On the right I've used some ammonites set in sterling silver, with fossil jasper, silver and Morocca resin amber.



COCO CHANEL

1883 - 1971 FASHION ICON, SPY & RULE BREAKER



Coco Chanel, was a French fashion designer and businesswoman who left an indelible mark on the world of fashion. Her innovative designs and forward-thinking approach revolutionised the industry and continue to influence fashion today.

Chanel's fashion creations were characterised by their simplicity, elegance, and functionality. She believed in liberating women from the constraints of corsets and embraced looser, more comfortable silhouettes. Her designs often featured clean lines, neutral colors, and the use of luxurious fabrics such as tweed and jersey. Chanel popularized the little black dress, a timeless and versatile wardrobe staple that remains a classic to this day.

In addition to her clothing, Chanel also made significant contributions to the world of jewelry. She introduced a new aesthetic that deviated from the elaborate and ornate designs of the time. Chanel's jewelry was minimalistic, often featuring pearls, diamonds, and her iconic interlocking "C" logo. Her designs were elegant and versatile, meant to be worn both during the day and for evening occasions.

Coco Chanel's impact on fashion and jewelry cannot be overstated. Her designs continue to be revered for their timeless appeal and enduring style.

Coco was a pleasure to pay tribute to. I love glamour, I love minimalism, I love stories in jewellery. The long string of large fresh water pearls on the left has, as its focal point, a bakelite, silver and rosewood Art Deco cigarette holder (sterilised!) that we found in Prague (where I was born) when we were on honeymoon.. Coco would love this one. And she'd love the jet, onyx and agate silver cigarette holder in the middle, also from Prague. The necklace on the right is made with onyx, fresh water pearls, and a polki diamond pendant, set in silver. Oh la la, all so chic.



MARIE CURIE

1867 - 1934 SCIENTIST NOBEL PRIZE WINNER



Marie Curie was a renowned physicist and the first woman to win a Nobel Prize - in Physics in 1903, along with her husband Pierre Curie and Antoine Henri Becquerel, for their groundbreaking research on radioactivity. This recognition marked a significant milestone for women in science. Curie's work revolutionized our understanding of radiation and its properties, leading to advancements in the field of nuclear physics.

In addition to her scientific achievements, Marie Curie was also a symbol of feminism. She defied societal norms and overcame gender barriers to pursue a successful career in science. Her accomplishments inspired countless women to pursue their passion for scientific research and challenge gender stereotypes in the field. Marie Curie's legacy continues to serve as a reminder of the importance of gender equality and the immense contributions women make to the scientific community.



Marie Curie would have been far too distracted to wear jewellery. But I had some antique Bohemian trade beads, called Vaseline glass beads, which had radium vitrified in them. This was a technique used to enhance the colour of glass objects like vases and ornaments. These trade beads were popular for their vibrancy - they were made in the early 1900's. I've mixed them with two silver plaques with the impression of a bull - I imagine Marie would have been a tough woman. Although Marie died of radium poisoning, the US Department of Nuclear Science assures that there is less radioactivity in these beads than in your mobile phone. So - safe to wear and what a pop of colour in her Victorian drab-coloured life.

RUTH BADER GINSBURG

1933-2020 SUPREME COURT JUDGE, FEMINIST



Ruth Bader Ginsburg, also known as RBG, was an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. She served on the Court from 1993 until her passing in 2020. Ginsburg was known for her advocacy for gender equality and her impact on feminism.

Ginsburg often wore decorative collars with her judicial robes which became a signature style to bring femininity into the courtroom. While they were not directly related to her work as a Supreme Court justice, they became a symbol of her personality and unique fashion sense.

Ginsburg's impact on feminism was significant. Throughout her career, she was a staunch advocate for women's rights and worked to dismantle gender-based discrimination. She played a key role in several landmark cases that advanced gender equality, such as *United States v. Virginia*, which challenged the male-only admission policy of the Virginia Military Institute.

Ginsburg's legal opinions and dissents often focused on issues such as reproductive rights, equal pay, and workplace discrimination. She believed in the importance of equal treatment under the law and worked to ensure that women's voices were heard and respected.

Ruth's famous dissent collars were her statement about femininity in the courtroom. I thought I'd push her statement South African seed bead necklace out a bit, and make it from fresh water pearls and silver which has presence, power and value. The orange collar necklace is made from ancient and very rare Mutisalah beads, made for Sultans from Sumatra, from around 400 CE. I've mixed them with 1800's gold on silver amulet pendants from Uzbekistan - the jingles are supposed to keep the evil eye away. And the evil eye? RBG would have had a few of those in her lifetime.



INDIRA GANDHI

1917-1984 PRIME MINISTER, EDUCATOR, FEMINIST



Indira Gandhi was an influential Indian politician and the first female Prime Minister of India. She served as Prime Minister from 1966 to 1977 and again from 1980 until her assassination in 1984. Known for her strong leadership and political acumen, she played a significant role in shaping India's political landscape.

Indira's personal style, including her jewelry, also garnered attention. She had a distinct taste for traditional Indian jewelry, that reflected the rich cultural heritage of India. She wore exquisite necklaces, earrings, and bracelets made from precious metals like gold and silver, adorned with diamonds, emeralds, and rubies. These pieces added elegance to her appearance and symbolised her connection to Indian traditions and culture.

Indira's jewelry choices were not just about fashion, but carried symbolic meanings. In Indian culture, jewelry is often associated with wealth, status, and spirituality. By wearing traditional Indian jewelry, she projected an image of national pride and embraced her role as a representative of the Indian people.

While Indira Gandhi's jewelry was a part of her public image, it is important to recognize her significant contributions to Indian politics and society.

This portrait of Indira Gandhi reminded me of my personal antique silver Mughal portraits collection from the 1800's, full of colour, symbolism, delicate balance and beauty. Indira deserves them. The central pendant has a woman riding a tiger, resplendent in her saffron robes. Indira was Hindu and the god Ganesha symbolises democracy, education, fairness & equality. I used her birthstone, topaz, and glass emeralds representing the pillaging by the British at the time. The silver necklace is a magnificent Rajasthan 1800's peacock pendant, which opens on the side perhaps for poison or love letters, mixed with ancient Himalayan rock crystal for strength and durability. Peacocks are a powerful Indian symbol, representing beauty & love, wisdom & knowledge.



QUEEN ELIZABETH II

1926-2022 QUEEN - LONGEST REIGNING MONARCH



Queen Elizabeth II possesses several stunning emerald and ruby necklaces and earrings within her jewelry collection. These pieces are notable for their exquisite craftsmanship and the vibrant gemstones they feature.

One of the remarkable emerald necklaces in her collection is the Grand Duchess Vladimir Tiara, which can be converted into a necklace. This tiara showcases emeralds surrounded by diamonds, creating a captivating display of regal elegance. Additionally, Queen Elizabeth owns a remarkable ruby necklace known as the Burmese Ruby Tiara Necklace. This piece features a central ruby surrounded by diamonds, with the ability to detach the tiara portion and wear it separately.

As for earrings, the Queen has been seen wearing various emerald and ruby designs. One notable pair is the Emerald and Diamond Chandelier Earrings, featuring cascading emerald drops surrounded by diamonds. She also possesses ruby and diamond cluster earrings, adding a touch of sophistication and color to her ensembles.

These emerald and ruby necklaces and earrings are not only exquisite examples of fine jewelry but also hold historical and cultural significance. They are worn by Queen Elizabeth II during significant state occasions, representing the grandeur and elegance of the British monarchy.

Your majesty, may I present to you my humble Royal offerings. I hope you're still wearing fabulous jewellery up there. You were so easy to work for - so undemanding, so appreciative, that these designs flew from my fingers. They're the ones you could wear when shopping at Harrods - they're real, but not quite as real as your Glitterati collection. The honey-toned necklace is made from hand carved carnelian - a gemstone that protects you in the afterlife, mixed with the pearls you loved. The Christmassy one is made of Indian "rubies" and "emeralds" actually the Indian gemstone Beryl. I've also mixed them with pearls - you can guess why. It's been a pleasure to be of service.



CATHERINE HAMLIN

1924-2020 PIONEERING OBSTETRICIAN



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Catherine Hamlin was an Australian obstetrician and gynecologist who dedicated her life to treating women suffering from obstetric fistula in Ethiopia. Obstetric fistula is a devastating childbirth injury that occurs when a woman experiences prolonged obstructed labor without access to proper medical care.

In 1959, Catherine and her husband, Reginald Hamlin, traveled to Ethiopia to work as doctors. They were deeply moved by the plight of Ethiopian women suffering from obstetric fistula, a condition that often leads to chronic incontinence, social isolation, and stigmatization.

The Hamlins established the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in 1974, providing free surgical treatment to repair obstetric fistulas. Over the years, the hospital became a center of excellence, offering comprehensive care, rehabilitation, and training for Ethiopian healthcare professionals.

Catherine Hamlin's work transformed the lives of countless women, restoring their dignity and providing them with a chance to rebuild their lives. She also worked to raise awareness about obstetric fistula globally, advocating for improved maternal healthcare and prevention efforts.

My tribute to Catherine Hamlin begins with the central silver pendant in the necklace on the left. It's a "bella" pendant, a paper thin sliver of hand cut and embossed silver, made by members of the Tuareg tribe in Africa for their wives about 150 years ago. It tells the story of the woman - where she came from, how many children she's had, how many cattle she was traded for. I've mixed it with labradorite, which reduces anxiety and glows like the moon, with pearls for femininity, and coral for blood or life. The second necklace is made of ancient Mediterranean coral, which is mixed with pearls for femininity and gold for resilience.



BOUDICA

0030 - 0060 CELTIC QUEEN & FEARLESS WARRIOR



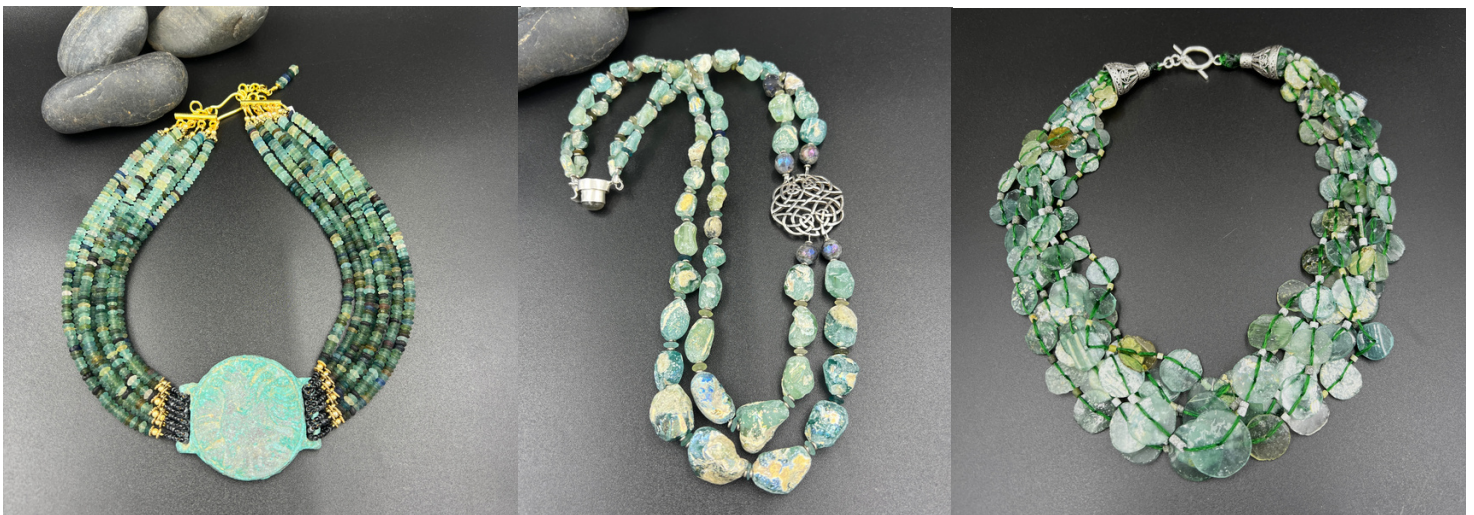
Boudica was a Celtic warrior queen who led a rebellion against the Roman Empire in Britain during the 1st century AD. Born into a noble family, she became the queen of the Iceni tribe after her husband's death.

In 60 or 61 AD, the Romans, under Governor Gaius Suetonius Paulinus, began to assert their authority over the Iceni tribe. The Romans confiscated their lands, abused Boudica and her daughters, and violated the tribe's rights. Outraged by the mistreatment, Boudica rallied her people and other tribes, including the Trinovantes, to fight against the Roman occupiers.

With a massive army estimated to be around 100,000 warriors, Boudica led a series of attacks on Roman settlements. She targeted cities such as Camulodunum (modern-day Colchester), Londinium (London), and Verulamium (St Albans), burning and destroying them, and inflicting heavy casualties on the Roman legions. Although Boudica achieved initial success, the Romans eventually regrouped and decisively defeated her forces in the Battle of Watling Street.

Despite her ultimate defeat, Boudica's rebellion left a lasting impact on British history. She became a symbol of courage, defiance, and the fight against oppression. Her story has been passed down through generations, inspiring many to stand up against injustice.

I made all three of the pieces I felt would represent the brave and fearless Boudica out of Roman glass. It's one of my favourite mediums to work with as it is light, fragile, strong, ethereal, other worldly and quite breathtakingly beautiful. Boudica's main piece has sixteen strands of colour graduated Roman glass, with a Roman bronze belt buckle as centre. The middle design has a silver Celtic symbol, with chunky rock shaped ancient glass. The coin shaped fragments represent Roman coins and they move like water in your hand. Halfway on her way to battle, she would have been stopped in the market place to have her jewellery admired.



CLEOPATRA

69-30 BCE POWERFUL EGYPTIAN QUEEN



Cleopatra was a prominent figure in ancient Egypt, known for her beauty, intelligence, and political prowess. She ruled as the last active pharaoh of the Ptolemaic Kingdom. While Cleopatra is often associated with her captivating personality and relationships with powerful men like Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, she also had a keen interest in Egyptian culture and symbolism.

Lapis lazuli, a deep blue semi-precious stone, held great significance in ancient Egypt. Cleopatra, like many Egyptian rulers, adorned herself with lapis lazuli jewelry. It was believed to have protective and healing properties and was associated with the sky and the gods. Cleopatra's use of lapis lazuli in her jewelry showcased her status and connection to the divine.

Scarabs, which are beetle-shaped amulets, were also important symbols in ancient Egypt. They represented rebirth and regeneration. Cleopatra, like other pharaohs, used scarabs as a symbol of her authority and power. Scarabs were often inscribed with hieroglyphs and used as royal seals or worn as jewelry. Cleopatra's use of scarabs demonstrated her connection to the ancient Egyptian traditions and her role as a ruler.

Cleopatra - brilliant, sharp, shrewd - and beautiful. I've made her pieces out of lapis, for protection, and carnelian for journeying to the after life in which all people in those days believed implicitly. The necklace on the left is made of lapis fish, which represent abundance and fertility, and pearls for femininity. The middle lapis necklace is made of carved scarabs for protection and longevity, and Roman glass, because she had a few interests in Rome. The turquoise necklace is my take on an ancient mummy painting, with what would have been very precious gems of the time - coral, turquoise, glass, gold, and lapis. The turquoise beads are the size of pinheads!



FRIDA KAHLO

1904-1954 MEXICAN ARTIST & STYLE ICON



Frida Kahlo, the Mexican artist, had a complex relationship with her body, and this connection often influenced her choice of jewelry. Throughout her life, Kahlo experienced physical pain and underwent numerous surgeries due to a bus accident that left her with lifelong injuries. She used her art as a means of exploring her identity, emotions, and physicality.

Kahlo's jewelry became a way for her to reclaim her body and express her individuality. She often adorned herself with vibrant and eye-catching pieces that drew attention to her unique style. By wearing jewelry, she accentuated certain parts of her body, such as her neck, ears, and hands, which allowed her to feel empowered and in control.

Additionally, Kahlo incorporated elements into her jewelry that represented her Mexican heritage and indigenous roots. She used symbols, like the sacred heart or images of animals, to connect with her cultural identity and convey her personal beliefs.

Frida - her life, her loves, her art, her passion, and her jewellery have always fascinated me. Her exhibitions are moving and significant. I too suffered a back injury and it was her resilience (and jewelry choices) that kept me going. I've made the archeological white agate necklace to honour her self portrait. It's mixed with old silver beads, slivers of old gramophone records, and some Tuareg silver which is believed to ensure safe travel for the wearer. The middle necklace is over 150 rods - stacked with ancient crystal, silver, I made coral, glass, gold, and jade, - that represent her smashed body. The amber necklace is because Frida loved to be bold, to stand out in a crowd, to wear pieces that have symbolism. Amber has protective, healing and intellect qualities.



TINA TURNER

1939 - 2023 ROCK QUEEN



Tina Turner is indeed a rock star legend known for her powerful voice and electrifying performances. She has had an incredibly successful career in the music industry, with hits like "Proud Mary," "What's Love Got to Do with It," and "Simply the Best."

In addition to her musical achievements, Tina Turner has also faced and overcome domestic abuse in her personal life. She has been open about her experiences and has become an inspiration for many who have faced similar challenges. Through her strength and resilience, she was able to rebuild her life and continue to pursue her passion for music.

Regarding her jewelry, Tina Turner has a distinctive style and has been known to wear bold and unique pieces. While I don't have specific information about her jewelry collection, it's worth noting that jewelry can be a form of self-expression and personal style for many individuals.

Tina - you were bold, gutsy, brave, invigorating, and a stellar performer. We were fortunate to have you entertain us in our lifetime. For you, here's "What's Love Got To Do With It". I've used a very favourite double cordiform gold washed silver pendant from the skillful silversmiths of Turkmenistan. These were worn as ceremonial pieces in temples and at important events. I've mixed it with carnelian cut in the 1800's, and silver beads from Morocco. The second necklace is also a Turkman pendant, inset with carnelian. I've mixed this with lapis, carnelian, goldwashed spiral beads from Africa - a symbol of self love and empowerment. And I've called it "Proud Mary".



NELLIE BLY

1864-1922 - ADVENTURER & JOURNALIST



Nellie Bly was an inspiring, adventuring journalist who made a significant impact in the late 19th century. One of her most famous journeys took place in 1889 when she set out to circumnavigate the globe in less than 80 days, inspired by Jules Verne's novel "Around the World in Eighty Days."

Starting from New York, Nellie Bly traveled by steamship across the Atlantic Ocean, reaching England. She made her way to France, where she experienced the bustling streets of Paris. She ventured through Italy, Egypt, and Sri Lanka and Yemen with its remarkable silversmiths, immersing herself in diverse cultures and captivating landscapes.

Nellie Bly then sailed across the Pacific Ocean, arriving in Hong Kong, where she explored the vibrant city and its rich history. She continued to Japan, immersing herself in the customs and traditions of the country. Then to San Francisco, crossing the United States by train and finally returning to New York.

Her journey captured the imagination of people around the world, completing her trip in just 72 days, a new record. Nellie Bly's courage, determination, and groundbreaking journalism continue to inspire adventurers and journalists alike to this day.

Nelly Bly - who's real name was Elizabeth Cochrane, reminds me of me. I fought hard to be a journalist and took on some incredible stories. I travelled hard and long. I collected stories and treasures along the way. Nellie visited Yemen, once the home of gifted silversmiths. I gave her the respect of making two pieces of jewellery from dowry silver from the places she would have visited. The first necklace has amber, agate, some coins dated 1299 (1882) - around the time she was travelling. The second necklace has hallmarked large silver globe beads, with signed boxwood ojime beads from Japan, and amber.



CIXI

1835-1908 CHINESE EMPRESS DOWAGER & REFORMIST



Empress Dowager Cixi was a prominent figure in Chinese history during the late Qing Dynasty. Known for her lavish lifestyle, she possessed an extensive collection of jewelry, including precious gemstones, pearls, and gold pieces. These opulent adornments symbolized her wealth and power within the imperial court.

While Empress Dowager Cixi's jewelry was undoubtedly impressive, her impact on women extended far beyond her personal style. She played a significant role in shaping the lives of women in China during that time.

Cixi was a progressive leader who advocated for certain reforms, such as the establishment of schools for girls and the promotion of women's education. These initiatives aimed to empower women and provide them with opportunities for personal and intellectual growth.

However, it is essential to note that Empress Dowager Cixi's influence was not solely positive. Her reign was marked by political turmoil and resistance to change. Nevertheless, her efforts to improve women's education and challenge traditional gender roles left a lasting impact on the trajectory of women's rights in China.

China is synonymous with jade, pearls, cloisonne and intricate miniatures, works so detailed they need to be seen with a magnifying glass. Cixi was a patron of the arts so I chose some of my detailed and delicate pieces to honour her and her contribution to the arts. The Egg is silver enamel, aquamarine, agate, amethyst pearls and crystal. The middle piece is silver, pearls, jade & carnelian, with 8 King George V Indian coins dated 1914 - when Britain had its hold on China. Ancient Himalayan rock crystal, jade and silver comprise the piece I've called Abacus.



KATHERINE JOHNSON

1918 - 2020 NASA GENIUS & MATHEMATICIAN



As one of the “HiddenFigures” in Nasa’s space race to the moon , Katherine Johnson's impact on females in science is truly remarkable. As an African-American woman working at NASA during a time of racial and gender discrimination, she faced numerous challenges. However, her exceptional mathematical skills and determination broke down barriers and inspired generations of women to pursue careers in STEM.

Johnson's achievements not only paved the way for women in science but also highlighted the importance of diversity and inclusion in these fields. Her groundbreaking work and contributions to space exploration demonstrated that intelligence and talent know no boundaries.

Katherine Johnson was known for her elegant and professional attire. She often dressed in tailored dresses and skirts, paired with modest accessories. Her style reflected her professionalism and dedication to her work, while also showcasing her personal flair.

Making a piece of jewellery for a mathematical genius? Easy. She loved to count - she counted everything, even how many plates she washed. I thought all the counting is a bit like having an abacus, which she probably used as an infant. The moonstone is mixed with silver which has lunar significance, as well as ancient Himalayan rock crystal - essential for use in computers. The second necklace is made with an 1800's silver pendant from Uzbekistan, mixed with pearls which also represent the moon, and some Roman glass because, like the moon, it's been around since any of us can remember.



EMILY KAME KNGWARREYE

1910 - 1996 AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS ARTIST



Emily Kame Kngwarreye was a renowned Australian Indigenous artist known for her vibrant and expressive paintings. Born in the early 20th century in the Utopia region of Central Australia, Emily began painting in her 70s and quickly gained recognition for her unique style. Her works often depicted the landscapes, stories, and Dreamings (ancestral stories) of her Anmatyerre community.

Emily's paintings are characterized by bold brushstrokes, intricate dotting, and a mesmerizing use of color. She drew inspiration from the natural world, capturing the essence of the desert, its plants, and the seasonal changes. Her art resonates with a deep spiritual connection to the land and her cultural heritage.

Emily's talent and artistic vision brought her international acclaim. Her works have been exhibited in major galleries worldwide, and she remains one of Australia's most celebrated Indigenous artists. She passed away in 1996, leaving behind a rich artistic legacy that continues to inspire and captivate audiences around the world.



Making my tribute piece to Emily was a tour du force. I've called it Waterfall Dreaming. I wanted to create one of her colourful paintings in a 3-D rendition, and began the design using modern glass beads because they had the vibrancy I wanted. But it soon became obvious that the colours and modern textures weren't working for me. So I used many of my most valuable, rare, archeological beads, and instead paid homage to the ancient lands of Emily's Anmatyerre community. The tones and colours are earthy, natural, old, bleached, dried but still have the vibrance of the colours of the land after rain. I used archeological agate, labradorite, ancient Nilas beads, ancient archeological beads from Afghanistan and North Africa. It's also light to wear, as the ancient beads had a lot of air in them. It moves like a river along the banks of time.

MIRIAM MAKEBA

1932 - 2008 SINGER SONGWRITER ACTIVIST FRIEND



Miriam Makeba, often referred to as Africa's Song Queen, was a South African singer and civil rights activist. Makeba used her powerful voice and music to advocate for equality and justice during a time of apartheid in South Africa. She gained international recognition for her performances and became a prominent figure in the fight against racial discrimination.

Makeba's involvement with civil rights extended beyond her music. She actively spoke out against apartheid and raised awareness about the struggles faced by black South Africans. In 1960, she was exiled from South Africa for her activism and spent many years living abroad.

Savanna Storm's father, Harry Bloom, a lawyer, writer and political activist, discovered Miriam in Orlando township where he ran a pro bono law practice. He put her in his musical "King Kong". " which premiered in 1959, then went to Broadway. It showcased her talent and propelled her career to new heights. She was a constant visitor to our home in Johannesburg. The song "Back of the Moon, Boys", came from King Kong.



I created this necklace to honour Miriam Makeba, and her enormous contribution to the Apartheid struggle that raged during my South African childhood and beyond. She was a frequent visitor to our home as she prepared for her role in King Kong and I used to sneak out of my bedroom and sit on the top of the stairs to listen to the grown up talk. There are 27 strands - the number of years Nelson Mandela was in prison - of 1800's hand made Maasai trade beads. Black and white meet in the middle, often with bloodshed. The brass "cages" through which the beads track represent imprisonment. My father was imprisoned too, with Nelson Mandela but he chose to be deported. The red trade beads represent the embargoes that South Africa suffered. Ostrich egg shells remind me of my barefoot childhood in a country that I paradoxically loved with all my being.

SAVANNA STORM

JOURNALIST, PHOTOGRAPHER, TRAVELLER, ARTIST



I was born in Prague, had a barefoot childhood in Africa, and became a journalist in London before emigrating to Australia. For two decades, I travelled the world as an international photojournalist, covering everything from female circumcision to the seismic effect of submarines on whales, until 9/11 stopped all that. I'd slept in yurts, castles, yachts and cabins. I'd travelled in dugouts, dinghies, hot air balloons and tuk tuks. I've ridden donkeys, camels, elephants; eaten snake, buffalo bladder, locusts and, accidentally, dog. I've been bitten by a monkey, survived a light plane crash and almost sitting on a Komodo dragon, endured encephalitis and a burst appendix, and left without any money in Patagonia.

With all flights grounded at 9/11, I was stranded in Africa, with a bag of silver dowry jewellery I'd collected. This collection inspired a new direction - to rescue broken dowry pieces from being discarded or melted down into modern pieces without stories. I began to repurpose my collected beads and pieces into culturally and historically significant adornments with plenty of tales to tell.



I've made a wedding dowry necklace for a doctor in Mali. I've made a necklace of cloves, peppers and garlic for a TV chef. I made a necklace out of Oprah magazine pages that was sold around the world to raise money for AIDS orphans. I've had four galleries, many exhibitions, and currently creates from my home studio in the Southern Highlands, NSW. I use archeological stones and glass, old silver, battered brass, niello and enamelled silver, signed silver beads from Yemen, recycled glass, ancient Venetian trade beads, bone and amber to make my creations, all of which tell their unique stories.



A dear friend I've known since our early twenties asked what I was doing for my own necklace. The answer!? A boarding pass necklace. I've done over 2000 flights in my life as a photojournalist - and have all the boarding passes. It's still my plan to paper a toilet wall, but then I won't have those memories. It's such a shame we've become digital. I loved the destinations: Casablanca, Dohar, Dubai, Venice, Singapore, Colombo, New Delhi, Mumbai, Mauritius, Zanzibar, Roma, Milan, Heathrow, Cape Town, Paris, Muscat, Napoli, and thousands more. So here - a mini tribute to my life in a plane over 20 years - a small clutch of journeys, mixed with trade beads. The red necklace are Bohemian glass beads, mixed with a miniature portrait of the all powerful Kali, hamsas for protection, Krishna and Radha, and the Hindu god ganesha, all of which are protective deities, and all were gifted to me on my travels.