

Artifacts used for jewelry designs

Carol Larsen is a bright new star on the fashion horizon. From a studio in her Bloomfield Hills home, she supplies the Midwestern Saks Fifth Avenue stores with beautiful, one-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry.

When she isn't home mingling and mixing Chinese artifacts and semiprecious beads with 14 karat gold, she's in China, digging about in dusty, dusty warehouses for circa 1800 hand-carved items.

"I travel to mainland China twice a year where I rummage in old warehouses for artifacts that were stored in dirt-filled wooden boxes after the revolution," she explained. "And, you really have to dig to find them."

She unearthed small hand-carved pieces of all the semiprecious stones — jade, rose quartz, ivory, turquoise, and coral. "The beautiful pieces were all carved over 100 years ago," she said.

Once her supply of artifacts is exhausted, there will be no more, said Ms.

Larsen. "The old carvers are not being replaced by new ones. The young people don't want to take the time for hand carving. The craft is not being carried on from generation to generation as it once was."

IN THE TWO YEARS Ms. Larsen has been marketing her original collectible pieces of jewelry, she has developed a loyal clientele who appreciate the rare art forms she creates. "People are be-

coming knowledgeable about jewelry," she said, adding, "the new rage is pearls."

In response to the new demand, Ms. Larsen is now bringing baroque and tiny seed pearls back from China.

The new look for spring, being worn by Ms. Larsen, is a beautiful strand of colored biwa (fresh water) pearls from China. The huge biwas pearls have a look of hand carving and were mixed with pale blues and pinks. Another fa-

vorite necklace formula is to mix multicolor pearls with the semiprecious gems. Among her favorite pieces for spring are the rare double-sided jade and rose quartz carvings.

Although Ms. Larsen earned an interior design degree from Michigan State University, she is no longer practicing in that profession because her jewelry designs take all of her time, she said.

Prices for the Carol Larsen designs range from \$85 to \$125 for most of the necklaces. A few individual pieces of art work which incorporate antique gold pieces with jade cost up to \$400. Occasionally, she is able to add a very inexpensive item to the collection, such as a little red Chinese nut for \$4. The little nut contains nine miniature carved ivory elephants with the larger, parent elephant sitting on top of the bean. The all-hand-carved piece is mounted on a 14 karat gold clip to use as a charm.



the fashion plate
Rustie Shand



One-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry manufactured in Bloomfield Hills are Carol Larsen's signature. Her own favorites for spring are made of seed pearls she brought back from mainland China. (Staff photo by Stephen Cantrell)

Neighbors club extends 'instant friendship'

Farmington Neighbors Club invites all area women to its next luncheon meeting at noon March 19 in the Steak and Ale restaurant on Orchard Lake Road, at 12 Mile Road.

"Our club represents instant friendship," said Pearl Berres. "The purpose of our club is to promote friends for all new people in our community."

Program for the March get-together will be led by Carolyn Jamison, known here as "the herb lady" whose topic for the day is "The Magic of Herbs."

Monthly meetings and programs are scheduled throughout the year by the club that is celebrating its silver anni-

versary in June with a tea in Farmington Community Center.

Club members also have sessions for sewing cancer pads and sponsors one large fund-raiser every year, a bridge party, to give financial help to the Farmington Community Center, Michigan Cancer Foundation and Community Living Centers, Inc.

As for the March meeting, Ms. Berres says, "Gourmet cooks, good cooks and mediocre cooks, this is a program for you."

Reservations, at \$5 each, are being taken now by calling Ruth Paul, 478-5739.

Design wins first prize for Donna Lynn Bernett

Donna Lynn Bernett has won the first prize in the state for design in competition sponsored by National Home Fashions League.

She is a student of John Davenport's Advertising Illustration class at Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus.

Her linoleum pattern design resembles a forest floor of matted leaves in tones of gold, olive green, orange, beige, brown and warm grays.

She created the design as well as organized the pattern so it could be repeated in 16-inch squares on a continuous linoleum floor covering with no discernible beginning or end.

She also prepared a cross section indicating different layers of material such as backing, printing surface, acrylic protective coat.

Mrs. Bernett is presently attending Center for Creative Studies and working free lance painting wall graphics.

She will accept the award in Wayne State Cultural Center auditorium, along with a plaque, a decorator clock



DONNA LYNN BERNETT

and a check for \$100.

Her winning entry will be forwarded to Indianapolis to compete with 49 other state winners. If she wins the national award, her prize will be \$2,000.

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