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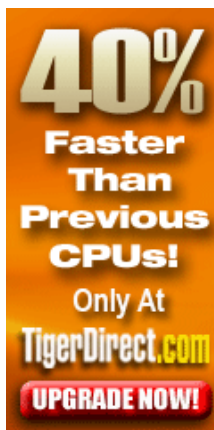


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Tuesday, June 05, 2007

From paint brushes to pliers

By *Bombette G. Marin*

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In 2004, Raquel Atibagos, a native of Quezon City came to Iloilo to pursue her studies in Interior Design at the University of San Agustin. However, she found herself occupied with her newly found hobby, she would string glass beads using the technique of shaping very thin copper wires and forming it into fashionable accessories.

Her unique creations combining these materials make one-of-a-kind rings, earrings, necklaces and bangles that people would purchase both for adornment and as collector pieces.

It took her only a few months to figure out she needed more time to produce more items that were selling like hotcakes and making her earn quite well. That time she wasn't too sold on schooling. Raquel sold to friends.

Nonetheless, she was surprised with the turnout because aside from her close friends, others were so interested with her accessories and some would even consign from her and sell them abroad. Although the prices of her accessories were a little higher than those sold in department stores, the quality is obviously so much better.

With her outstanding attention to detail, her designs are one-of-a-kind and of limited editions. The impetus and inspiration for her designs is fed by beautiful paintings, mostly with subjects on nature.

Nowadays, she occupies herself with creating beautiful pieces with the intent that it will be unique and thus become a must-have for accessory lovers. She specializes in doing custom work for her clients to create unique accessory pieces that fit their personal taste.

PEOPLE have been decorating their bodies with the beauty of objects. While most preferred using natural jewelry such as polished gold or silver, others love wearing the most unusual and striking pieces coming from ordinary every day objects that are relatively inexpensive materials.

And if you love accessories, you will appreciate this talented accessory designer who creates an endless variety of styles---creating sophisticated, complex, textured fashion accessories.



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If she sees a stone that she really likes, instantly she can work on a design. She enjoys using more than one type of stone in a piece of accessory. And as the pieces slowly come together, a work of art emerges.

The stones, nevertheless remains uncluttered of decorating colors mostly in the natural palette. She enjoys looking for combinations that she thinks are pleasing. "People love accessories that are unique, that have their own 'story' to tell," she adds. She has been making accessory for over three years and learns more by practice, practice and more practice.

One can wear the same outfit over and over again. But what makes the look different is thru accessorizing.

See more of these individually handcrafted accessories thru Raquels' website at artique12@yahoo.com or simply get personally in touch with her at 09154090909.

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(June 5, 2007 issue)

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