

Elizabeth Duke



When I was a young girl I looked forward to visiting my Grandmother. Her closet was full of fashionable clothes that had matching shoes and purses. She would allow the grandchildren to play dress-up in her fancy clothes, but the most exciting part for me was to rummage through her extensive collection of costume jewelry. Ever since then I have been drawn to different styles of jewelry just like my Grandmother. Growing up in the South allowed me to spend many days at the ocean and the creeks in the mountains where I would spend hours looking for the perfect pebble or shell. To this day I not only enjoy but will spend hours looking for the perfect gemstones for my pieces. When I shop for gemstones I have similar feelings as I did as a little girl opening up my Grandmother's bureau looking for the perfect piece of jewelry in order to play "dress-up".

When I make jewelry, one theme that keeps repeating itself in some of my pieces includes water, the glittering patterns on the surface of the ocean, or the rippling streams that are found in the mountains. I utilize what I learned while obtaining my Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts to help me invoke style into my pieces. I start by drawing a design. Then I cut the metal for the piece and start my layout of gemstones if they are part of the design. Next I add a pattern or texture to the piece using whatever inspires me at the moment. Then I move the gemstones or metal around until the movement of the piece is perfect. I make sure that all of the elements of my design work with each other. My goal is to make a piece of jewelry that will be loved by the wearer just as much as I loved making the piece for them.