



Vale Craft Gallery

230 West Superior Street, Chicago IL 60654
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Marco Polo Designs

Handmade Glass Jewelry by Jane Barthelemy

Contemporary American Designs

Northwest jewelry designer Jane Barthelemy emerged on the American Craft jewelry scene 14 years ago as the jewelry artist for the Dale Chuliy exhibit at the Portland Museum of Art. Marco Polo Designs is now the most sought after glass jewelry line in the country and is a mainstay feature for some of the finest American Craft, Glass Galleries & fine jewelry & gift stores in the USA. Jane creates her exquisitely colorful necklaces, earrings & bracelets in innovative, multi-layered glass designs. She infuses the finest of old-world craftsmanship with eclectic, energized, modern style.

From Opera Music to Jewelry

Originally from Boston, Jane lived in Italy where she sang as a prima donna in Italian opera theaters. While living and singing in Venice, she fell in love with glass, and learned to make handmade lamp work beads. She frequently created beads and jewelry to wear for her own performances on stage. In 1993, she tired of the life of a performer, returned to the USA and began to create her own jewelry collections.

Handmade in the USA, using the finest quality materials

Jane creates her exciting, fashion-forward glass jewelry in an airy studio in Portland, Oregon, surrounded on all sides by 12-foot shelves of the finest quality beads and findings. Her favorite components include Murano glass, Bohemian glass, antique Japanese beads, handmade glass beads by USA bead designers and freshwater pearls. She uses superior American-made findings of sterling silver and gold vermeil.

Making a Handmade Bead

Jane's exclusive lamp beads are made entirely by hand over a single flame. Many of the beads have an internal layer of 24k gold or sterling silver, which adds luminosity to transparent colors. Jane says, "Each color must be layered one at a time while keeping the molten glass at a constant temperature, or the bead will crack. After several trials, we allow the bead to cool and it's true colors appear. The final result is often quite a surprise, even more beautiful than what I had originally envisioned!"