



2011中国无核世界博物馆联开大会
2011.10.14-16, 19.0-2.0



Sparkle and flair

Global Times | October 11, 2011 08:30

By Erick Peterson

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Homemade jewelry at Samantha Lim and Lili's Shanghai. Photos: Erick Peterson/GT and courtesy of the owners of two shops

Accessible materials

"I think it's crucial that if you work on something, a piece of art or a project, materials should be accessible to you where you live," said Lim, who points out that metal findings, stones, straps, wires and beads can be found at locations all over Shanghai.

These strands can give a Chinese look to a piece of jewelry. Further influences can be incorporated into the design, as a jewelry maker can use Chinese designs, calligraphy or Chinese characters in their work. One need only browse shops for inspiration in such designs.

That said, Lim maintains that not every piece of jewelry needs to express a Chinese influence. After all, a person creates so that he can demonstrate his own creativity.

Cui Guoding, owner of Lili's Shanghai, has been making jewelry in Shanghai for 11 years.

"I love colorful stones, pearls and jewels. I like unique designs," Cui said. Further, he says that he especially enjoys Chinese designs and jobs.

Working on jewelry can be difficult for amateurs, according to Cui. Specialized equipment is necessary for making the most exquisite pieces. Even simple jewelry benefits from the use of a polishing machine, which he recommends for amateurs. With experience, a jewelry maker can even start crafting pieces out of soft silver and then other metals.

Ambition need not end here, however, as there is plenty of room for a person to develop their skills and advance to even higher levels. But all of the jewelry makers in Shanghai the Global Times spoke to said that the lower levels give hobbyists plenty to enjoy. The opportunity to enjoy your art and wear it in public is an attractive proposition.

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Sparkle and flair

Global Times | October 11, 2011 08:58

By Erik Peterson

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Homemade jewelry can be a creative pursuit. Photo: Erik Peterson/GT and courtesy of the owners of three shops

The work of local jewelry makers, teachers and professionals make obvious their love of making jewelry. The pieces they create range from the playful to the traditional, items that may include wild colors and intricate details. One thing that jewelry makers in Shanghai have in common, however, is that they are passionate devotees of their craft. Furthermore, they encourage creativity in other people.

"It's pretty easy," said Jessica Eglason, co-founder of the Seed Project (where she recently auctioned pieces of her homemade jewelry for charity), expressing her opinion on entry-level jewelry making.

Eglason, who has been making jewelry for two years, said jewelry making is something most people can do providing they have an interest in the subject. Thus, a new creator can begin the hobby with confidence.

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