

THE TOP 12 & MAKERS, MOVERS, SHAKERS

Key handmade players that you may or may not have heard about

By Travis Manney, Publisher/Editor



What better way to kick off the *Handmade Business* era than by bringing to light some of the most talented and visionary crafters and makers in the industry today? Many of these you may have heard of. Some you may have not. But they, all in their own way, are making noise and finding the heights of success doing what they love to do.

Scott Durfee and George Medeiros | Spathose Wearable Sculpture

Scott Durfee and George Medeiros have been business and life partners for the past 25 years, and are the creative team behind the innovative brand called Spathose. The transition from fine artists to fashion designers was as graceful and seamless as their unique accessory designs.

Working with sustainable, organic material infused with an industrial edge, their pieces truly unify their vision for a fashion-forward approach to design. Their primary source of material comes from the palm spathe—the fibrous, woody bract surrounding the inflorescence or flower of the palm. Their work transcends the realm of ordinary style by forging fine art with fashion, thus conceiving more than an accessory—they have given rise to wearable sculpture.

Like nature itself—ever evolving—their wearable sculpture progresses with every new deconstruction, device, and design to create an innovative attitude that bonds fashion, art, and upcycling. www.spathose.com



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Vickie Hallmark | Vickie Hallmark Jewelry Design

As an avid gardener and birdwatcher, Vickie Hallmark draws inspiration for her jewelry from the fauna and flora that gather around the stock tank pond in her central Texas garden. The scenes that appear in her work are based on studio views of the treetops, where warblers and wrens flit from branch to branch. Additional inspiration is adapted from close examination of the native plants she cultivates.



Each bird, leaf, and flower is hand-sculpted in silver or gold clay with the individuality that nature imparts, with details interpreted through an artistic eye. Once reduced to pure metal, these tiny elements are then combined with low-tarnish, 100% recycled Argentium sterling silver, high karat gold, and colorful gemstones to create charmingly individual vignettes meant to be worn and treasured.

Trained as a research scientist, Vickie studied gold and silver in the laboratory for many years before returning to her birth name's heritage of metalsmithing (a hallmark is a maker and purity mark for fine metals). She sought training from recognized master jewelers to learn the craft, but combined the techniques they taught with her own experimental and artistic nature to develop a unique combination of high-tech materials and processes. www.vickiehallmark.com

