

Kathryn Bowman - Bio

Kathryn Bowman started life on a farm on the plains of Colorado where the Rocky Mountains sat on the western horizon. The vastness of this perspective served to root Kathryn with a sense of being an integral partner of nature. Her parents shared their gift for growing any plant with their daughter. Each season brought its cycles and, as Kathryn soaked up each in turn, they were simultaneously weaving their way into her artistic vision. A love of making started in those early years as well. Kathryn was drawing, painting, and stitching before starting school. Her Dad had a low work bench in his machine shop and Kathryn worked/played with scrap wire and metal. The power of tools and their use became a natural part of life. Her Mom had Kathryn sewing, stitching, and embroidering from the time that she could hold onto a needle. Sewing and embroidery being a grounding part of life to this day.

As a young adult, Kathryn wanted to see what was beyond those mountains and found the perfect career for her wanderlust as an international flight attendant. First being based in New York City there was considerable culture shock. She quickly adapted to the adventure while wandering the halls of the greatest museums of the world, she was inspired by the works of master artists. The spark for the creation of her jewelry was born. A deep love of travel is in her bones to this day and a great source of inspiration on every adventure into the world.

Now living near the confluence of the powerful Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, Kathryn's artistic focus is to tap into the abundance, beauty, and mystery of the diverse world we inhabit. By using floral imagery in her work, her intention is to plant a seed of desire in whoever wears or sees her jewelry to preserve our planet for generations to come. Her purposeful balance of metal, semi-precious stones and woven glass in all of her botanical interpretations give each piece the solidity, variety of texture and vibrant color of our natural world. Through the joyous use of color, Kathryn appeals to the nature-lover in all of us while coaxing a smile with her whimsy.

Being an active studio jeweler, she has no less than five or six projects going at once. A self-proclaimed geek, Kathryn embraced the power of being online to sell and promote her work when she started her artistic business at the start of this century. That online presence takes up as much time as creating as Kathryn seamlessly meanders through her day of making, photo taking, and posting. She has taught for years both locally and nationally, sharing her skills in beadweaving and metalsmithing. Being a studio jeweler can be a solitary endeavor, so Kathryn balances her time by volunteering for local arts groups and at the world renowned Saint Louis Art Museum.

What I would say to any woman artist after the journey I have taken, don't give up, keep working, allow your art the time to mature as you mature, and always be yourself. There is only one of you and that is a special voice. Develop a community of artist. Doing this will benefit you more than I could ever explain. Never be shy about talking about your art and promoting your art, "The Boys" aren't shy.