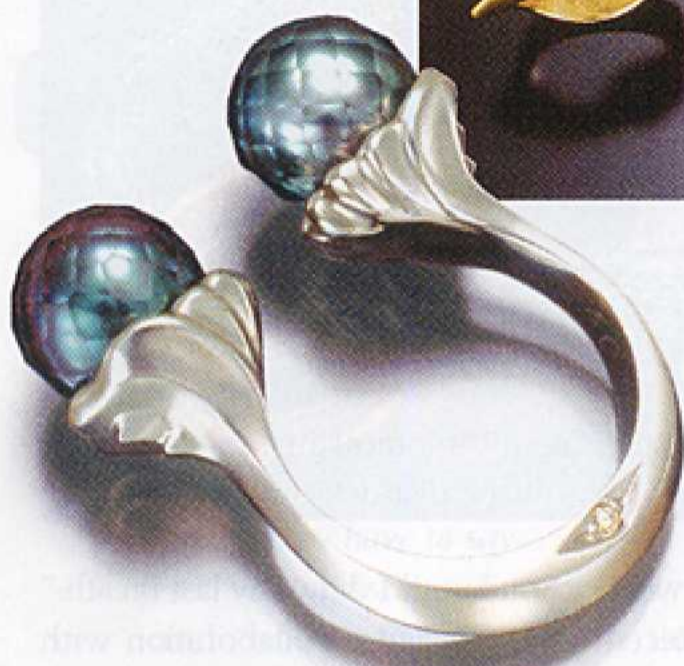




Metalsmith Birgit Kupke-Peyla (831-757-9360) uses a "marriage of metals" process in her silver and 22kt gold works. The "Balance" earrings are set with moonstone, peridot and white sapphire. "Lapel Pin # 1" features druzy agate, cultured freshwater pearl and blue topaz.

These stackable rings set in citrine and garnets and pearl bracelet are typical of the "sticks, stones and bones" style of Roanne Kaplan of Roka Jewelry (212-673-4853).



This faceted two-pearl ring, created with white gold, South Sea pearls and champagne diamonds, above, and four-finger feather suite of 18kt gold, top right, are part of the Freedom Collection by Sasha Samuels (503-232-5422).

1982 and studied at the Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts in San Francisco from 1983 through 1988, where she has currently begun teaching, an accomplishment she views as a career highlight. She works mainly in 18kt gold and platinum and stone setting and advises all involved in jewelry not to pay attention to trends. "There is a market for everything," she contends.

A soft feminine look that is also strong and interesting, with lots of color and texture, is where

Roanne Kaplan

of Roka Jewelry in New York City sees artisan-created jewelry headed.

"My generation of women can afford and want real jewelry, but we don't want our mother's jewelry," she says. "We want something that is fresh, dynamic, feminine, urbane." Her own work is based on "sticks and stones and bones," she notes. "It's meant to be organic, but an abstracted sense of organic shapes." She began that focus while she was an undergraduate at Tulane Universi-



ty and took a course in ceramic sculpture that changed her life. She also studied ceramics in Japan and has a minor in Asian studies. For her, jewelry combines a decade of work in ceramics and love of architecture. "It is small-scale sculpture," she says.

"Always keeping it simple" is a goal of **Birgit Kupke-Peyla**, who pays attention to balance of line and form in jewelry. "Everything I encounter seems to show up in my work," she says. "A few semesters ago, I took a sailing class and to this day I love to incorporate the boat shape into my work. It seems that everything I come in contact with slowly incorporates itself into my work and thus reflects my past." Kupke-Peyla, who came to the United States in the early '90s and is based in Salinas, Calif., got hooked on jewelry making 18 years ago when a confession to a young goldsmith that she loved sketching designs led to an invitation to work with him. She later completed a degree in metal arts and an apprenticeship in Germany.

Before **Sasha Samuels** of Portland, Ore., decided on the theme of her latest collection—spirituality and freedom, she contemplated what expression, in her opinion, would most serve humanity. "As a human being, what value or state is dearest to me, and might it be universal?" Her current Freedom Collection received the American Jewelry Design Council's National Grand Prize. It uses white and colored diamonds "to represent our physicality and spirituality," she says, noting that she treats jewelry as fine art. "Often there is a message in it. My work has always reflected a certain sensuality that I find in life, and is expressed through fluid lines and a very conscious and deliberate use of color."

—Norma Wilson