



Jennie Lorette Keatts

JLK Jewelry at Jugtown
Seagrove, North Carolina
www.jlkjewelry.com

Looking at the shapes, colors and textures found in nature gives me inspiration and excitement in creating my jewelry. I can take elements of nature, clay, glazes, and metals and transform them from very ordinary pieces into objects that are fun and individual.

I use a roller mill, stamps or reticulation to create the many textures that I incorporate into my work. So many ordinary things can create such beauty when impressed into silver or when viewed outside the box. All of my jewelry is hand fabricated from sterling silver sheet and wire, with the addition of gold fill, copper and semi-precious stones. I work alone in my studio making each piece.

“Turning Mud Into Gemstones” defines JLK Jewelry. My stones are all hand formed cabochon “tiles”, mostly painted with the Jugtown Pottery glazes. The stones are fired in gas and electric kilns to cone 6 or cone 10, occasionally under-glazes will be used for one of a kind stones. The child in me quickly emerges each time the kiln is opened, I can’t wait to open it up and see what I will pull out. I feel as though I have struck a vein of a new and wonderful stone as the glazes have melded to form my new stones.

Creating my jewelry gives me the opportunity to lose myself in my work each day. Not a day goes by that I don’t thank the universe for this wonderful life that I have been given and the opportunity to do something that I love every day. I live in a very serene, creative and magical environment, which rekindles my creativity and spirit each day. And so my jewelry evolves, as does my life.

Prior to moving to NC in 1999 to start a new life making jewelry Jennie worked in Colorado for many years in hotel and international tourism sales and marketing. Jennie is currently serving as a North Carolina Pottery Center Board Member and in the past has served on the Seagrove Area Potters Association Board, as well as the Celebration of Seagrove Potters Steering and Marketing committees. Her work has received awards at Fine Art and Craft Shows and can be found in many galleries, shops, on line and at Jugtown Pottery.