



In the jungles of backyard Salinas, California, my sister and I prowled the terrain, eagle-eyed, hunting for precious stones locked away inside ordinary-looking rocks. We spent hours digging and examining. The layers of sedimentary stones fascinated me; each had a different color, sometimes a different texture, always a different shape and slope than the ones above or below it. I knew that whatever I did when I grew up would be somehow tied to those stones.

For years, I hungrily absorbed everything I could about gemstones and the metals shaped around them. I explored how jewelers through the ages have put their pieces together and discovered the difference between artistry and expedience. That discovery fuels my design.

I want my designs to be so completely individual that each one projects its own message and purpose. I want it to draw gasps and wide-eyed amazement. To invite thought and ignore any boundary of what wearable art is and—always—to forge
new pathways
into the future.



"Hands to Water"
First Place, Gold/Platinum
2006 Saul Bell Design Award



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