



Emily Benoist Ruffin
goldsmith, perfectionist, mad tinkerer
Emily Benoist Ruffin Design
Taos, NM

My grandfather was a doctor and taught me how to use tools. He'd bring home outdated surgical equipment and make it do something different. So here I was, this kid in Mississippi, tinkering around in my grandfather's workshop. I was so innocent. Now I'm a grown-up who still feels like she's five in this world of possibilities!

Historical reference and balance are important to me. I am very aware—in some innate way—of classical proportion. I stick to it. Classical proportion is based on the human body, so the finished piece has a real humanness. Without that, you don't feel familiar with it—you can't.

You have to know this about me: I'm only excited about my design when I have pushed my limits. I like making things. I *need* to make things—I *have* to.



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