



THE HAND-CRAFTED ASPECT IS ONE OF ITS MOST ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS TO MY WORK.



the unique character of ROBYN CHAMBERLAIN

JEWELLERY
CREATED FROM
COMBINING
METAL WITH
FABRIC, THIS
FEELS SPECIAL

Photography by BROGAN MCNAB

Make-up & Hair NATALIA SOLAR

Model AIME KOCH
(CHANTALE NADEAU)

Robyn Chamberlain admits that her whole career direction has been due to her drive, one that continuously needs to be invigorating without losing interest, and metalsmithing was the only thing that thrills her! “I love creating beautiful pieces of work, states Chamberlain. That is my biggest driver to do what I do. I continuously need to be creating something. My hands never seem to be at rest, whether in the studio or in the evenings when I always have some project on the go.”

Born and raised in the town of Cochrane, Alberta, she graduated in 2011 from NSCAD University in Halifax, Nova Scotia with a Bachelor in Jewellery Design, after a long creative journey as a youth. Her mother was her creative mentor, who was a very creative individual, showing her the passions of creativity. “I learned from my mother to be attentive to detail and never settle for something that isn’t completed to the best of my ability. She taught me that it is always worth going back and fixing a mistake, no matter how long it takes. Otherwise, the finished piece is never something you can be completely satisfied with.”

This inspires her later in life to share her final product with pride, to those who buy her work.

Chamberlain is a staunch supporter of the value behind making and buying high quality made craftsmanship. “Skillfully crafted items with a well thought-out design greatly appeal to me. I think this is because when I look around in our society today I see an abundance of poorly-

designed items lacking any kind of creative spark. Many individuals have lost the appreciation for hand-made items due to our consumer culture that thrives on the idea that cheap, easily-replaceable articles are the ideal.”

Beginning in her process of creation is often a sketch, or the fabrication of a piece from scratch. She loves the one on one interaction with her cliental afterwards, to elaborate on her inspiration behind a piece, and also to be assured they will care for her work for a long period of time.

Robyn speaks about the eco-conscious practices needed in the jewelry industry. She states that the commercial jewellery industry depends on many practices that are incredibly damaging to the earth and contain appalling human rights violations; from the mining of metals and precious stones to the many chemicals used in the actual process of making a piece of jewellery. This awareness has lead to things changing dramatically, due to the intelligent choices that key demographic audiences such as ACF readers make, changing the industry. The demand for more consciously mined metals and stones has allowed organizations to begin to change the way the jewellery industry operates.

“I have done quite a bit of research into obtaining recycled and fair trade metals but it is difficult as an independent jeweller to purchase them. I only order relatively small amounts and it is hard to find a supplier for small businesses. “Chamberlain expresses.

In her practice, Chamberlain loves enamelling techniques, which is silica glass sand, melted on a metal surface, creating beautiful patterns.

As a true steward of the craft, Chamberlain wants her pieces to be worn. Thus she wants her clients to truly interact with her pieces, and not be detached to it. To be never worn, is her worse fears, but also to not take care of her materials as some are precious metals would concern her as well. To value her work, she believes that emphasis should be given to how things are made, who made them, rather than to get something cheap and easy, or replace something once another new comes along.

“To me, what I do is supporting a long tradition of hand-crafted products pushing against the mass-production culture we are currently surrounded by. “ She believes, the craftsman is important and should be valued as a significant factor in every product.

Chamberlain is driven to uphold the respect for hand crafted quality. Her work is exquisite, has concept and each posses its own character and personality, that no doubt carries a strong illustrative form that is easily recognizable as her signature. But each carries her strong faith in the craftsman.

“ I will continue making beautiful hand-crafted and high quality pieces in support of this belief.”