

Joan Morgan Custom Jewelry Design

I began an artistic life early in the Chicago area watching my father do his landscape paintings. My studies included art all through school continuing into college when I took advantage of a scholarship created to supply more teachers in the 60's. I chose Art Education, proceeded with all manor of programs and soon found that my best efforts were in the jewelry classes I took. In those days gold was still \$35.00 an ounce. Silver went for \$.60.

I continued my education, earned a Master's Degree after teaching a year in Illinois, got married and moved to the Washington D.C. area where I began working for a manufacturing jeweler. I worked there long enough to earn a journeyman's certificate before I was offered a job teaching high school in Fairfax County.

I taught high school art for almost 30 years during which I continued my education in jewelry and metalwork. I also raised two children and did custom designing for clients. The Washington Guild of Goldsmiths asked me to be president for a brief period, and in 1995 I established my business officially.

In 2000 I retired from teaching and went to Japan with my husband when he was transferred there. Along with our household I also packed my studio and continued to create for Japanese customers. For almost 7 years I made great friends, learned enough Japanese to get around and enjoyed a unique culture.

On returning to the States we decided to live in OBX. While we were in Japan we had owned an oceanfront rental there that was popular. Whenever we could we enjoyed it ourselves. As our rental season grew in length the need for a permanent residence became clear. After some searching I found a place in Martins Point where I live and work year round.

Because I am able to enjoy the natural beauty of the Outer Banks everyday my work is influenced by things that can be seen there. I create wearable forms that fit the body comfortably. Many are silver or gold, some with pearls or precious stones. All easily compliment any personal style.