

THE ODYSSEY CONTINUES PAULA CREVOSHAY



A Brief Biography of the “Queen of Color”

After earning her Masters Degree with Honors in Painting and Sculpture at the age of 22, Paula went to New York to launch her career as an artist. Soon George Crevoshay, a Ph. D candidate in Asian studies, whom she had met at the University, came wooing her for his wife. Although she loved him, she didn't feel she was ready to get married so she put him off, telling him that if he could support her without her having to work for the next three years so she could dedicate herself exclusively to her art that she would marry him, and he left.

She thought the issue had been settled and was surprised when he showed up two weeks later to announce that he had just applied for, and been awarded both a Fulbright Scholarship and an American Institute of Indian Studies grant to be paid back to back over a period of three years. He then requested and received a stipend for his wife, even though he was not yet married! The Magical Mystery tour began!

So Paula spent the first three years of her married life living in India in a Tibetan Buddhist Monastery studying with His Holiness, the Dali Lama's teachers while George worked on his thesis and translated ancient holy texts from Sanskrit into Tibetan among other scholarly pursuits.

Paula had two one-woman shows of her work in Bombay and Pune, worked as an actress in Bollywood films and set up a dispensary in the monastery, all the while serving the social functions of the wife of a Fulbright Scholar. The British Council for the Arts purchased five paintings for their collection from her Bombay show “Won't you Pull My Leg” which opened at the prestigious Jehangir Art Gallery in 1980.

Although she had made jewelry as gifts for family and friends when she was a student, in India Paula began buying gems and designing jewelry in earnest. The first Crevoshay jewels were meticulously crafted using the finest melee in party colored sapphires, rubies and other gemstones. On returning home, she sold out her collection in the first month. She had to fly back to Asia for more gemstones and an intercontinental lifestyle was born.

Each year as the artist went from success to success and upgraded the size and expense of her stones, the scale of her pieces and her elaborate style was developed. She began to win patrons and recognition and her career blossomed. In addition to special exhibitions, her work is now on permanent display in museums such as the GIA Museum, Carnegie Museum and the Smithsonian Institution.

She has gained renown not only for the graceful beauty and opulent design of her jewels, but especially for her painterly approach to gemstone combinations, which is why the trade press has referred to her as “The Queen of Color”.

Paula Crevoshay ~ Curriculum Vitae

Mission

Paula Crevoshay began her career as a jewelry designer almost three decades ago. She has always done original, one-of-a-kind pieces and has turned down opportunities to mass produce her designs because she has wanted to help elevate the role of the jewelry designer from an anonymous function to that of a fine artist. She has also wanted to raise designer jewelry from a mass produced fashion item to an object of fine art. In this light she strives to produce jewels of the highest artistic quality and show the best that can be done in our culture and set a high standard for generations to come.

Her intention is to show that it is possible to make a living doing original works of art in jewelry and therefore to widen the path for others to follow. She is pleased when other designers visit and say they have been inspired by her example. She is gratified that more than half of the hits to her web site are from educational (.edu) web addresses. The fact that many of these schools are in Europe and Asia shows that her growing influence on the next generation of designers is international.

Further progress was made when she helped the American Society of Appraisers write guidelines for appraising designer jewelry to include consideration for what they called “The Genius Factor”.

Community Involvement

Contemporary Design Group

Couture Committee ~ Chair
Educational Outreach Committee
Spectrum Award Winners Committee ~ Co-Chair

American Gem Trade Association

Jewelry Exhibitors Committee Co-Chair and Show Liaison
Exhibitor Selection Committee

Educational Panels

AGTA - Numerous Years
GIA – Numerous Years

Lectures

Closing speaker for the annual meeting of the Gemological Association of Great Britain

Several lectures each year promoting gemstone awareness and the importance of jewelry as personal adornment

Trade Membership

American Gem Trade Association
Contemporary Design Group
Jewelers Vigilance Committee
Women’s Jewelry Association

Internships

From time to time Crevoshay grants internships to worthy aspiring jewelry designers.

Awards

GIA Best of the Best Show
JCK Jewelers Choice Award
Saul Bell Design Award – Twice
Spectrum Award
Vision Award - Twice
WJA Award for Excellence in Design

Museum Shows

Bellevue Art Museum - Seattle
Carnegie Museum – Pittsburgh
GIA Museum - Los Angeles
GIA Museum - New York
Gwinnett Museum - Atlanta
Headley-Whitney - Lexington
High Museum - Atlanta
Jehinger Art Gallery – Bombay
Lizzadro Museum – Chicago
Museum of Fine Arts – Colorado Springs
Tilak School of Architecture - Puna

Notable Public Collections

Smithsonian – National Gem Collection
British Council for the Arts
Carnegie Museum
GIA Museum
Gwinnett Art Museum

Charitable Projects

Paula feels fortunate that she is in a position to help and is honored that people turn to her to contribute to their projects. In addition to frequent donations to various causes in Arts, Education and Health, Crevoshay is currently working on a jewelry project to raise money for the Smithsonian and one to raise money to help with the recovery of shellfish and shrimp in the gulf after the oil spill.

Education

Virginia Commonwealth University; Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honors
University of Wisconsin – Madison; Master of Fine Arts with Honors