

Belle Armoire

ART TO WEAR

Winter 2002

Precious Metal Clay Techniques

PHOTOS ON SILK
100 Beads
in 1 Weekend!

THE BERNINA
FASHION SHOW

Collection:
AN

Clockwise, from upper left: "Deco" necklace, "Lily" necklace, "Habitat" pendants, "Celestee" necklace, "Organic" rings, and "Grande Fleur de Lis" necklace #6.

After 10 years as a professional graphic designer, I've come back to jewelry, my original love. I am very influenced by architecture, costume, the Renaissance, the Gothic style, and the places I've visited such as Venice, Athens, Beirut, Cairo, Amsterdam, Paris, and London. These experiences have greatly inspired my aesthetic and style from an early age, and the perspectives gained in my background in art, fashion and graphic design shape my vision of jewelry design.

I design and produce Precieux in my San Francisco studio using fine silver and 24k gold PMC, precious stones, and pearls. I sculpt, carve, trail, mold, push, and pull the clay into the shapes of my design. Setting stones into the wet clay feels like an ancient process, even though it is very modern. In keeping with the old-world feeling I have for the PMC process, I do all the finishing by hand, burnishing and brushing, giving the pieces a wonderfully organic, rich and ancient quality.

—Shahasp Valentine



From top to bottom: "Celestee" earrings, "Rose Window" necklace, and "Scroll" pendants.



FOR INSPIRATION...

Precieux

METAL CLAY

FROM THE
MODERN ARTIFACTS AND
ORGANICS SERIES

A collection by Shahasp Valentine,
San Francisco, California

Photos by Hap Sakwa

www.bellearmoire.com • Winter

