

JEWELRY DESIGNER

DEBORAH GASPAR

by RITA COOK | photos by JAKE TOLER

Dallas Jewelry Designer Deborah Gaspar got a pleasant surprise recently when, after working with a stylist in New York City, she saw not only a wrist full of her gold tone mother of pearl bangles, but also her topaz faceted earrings being worn in a magazine layout on none other than Katie Couric who had been chosen as one of the “25 best dressed women of New York.”

The 40-something designer whose own “go to” pieces are her one-of-a-kind dotted mother of pearl bangle embellished with Pavé accents, a mixed metal multi-link long necklace, and a pair of classic hoop earrings, says she got her start as a jewelry designer seven years ago as a hobby.

“I started by taking pre-made jewelry apart and remaking it into something creative that I personally liked better,” she explains. “It was fun and creative outlet for me and I got a lot of attention with these creations while I was out and about.”

It didn't take long before Gaspar was getting even more attention, this time from friends asking her to make pieces of jewelry for them too. “I realized there might actually be something to this jewelry designing and that maybe I had a hidden talent that needed to be explored,” she explains. In the beginning Gaspar's main concentration was centered on her ability to create and design mother of pearl stones into unique custom designs. She followed that with personalized mother of pearl bangles. “My entire collection grew from there,” she says.

These days the “left-handed Pisces” has added a number of additional items to go with her signature pieces. Much of Gaspar's jewelry is interchangeable; for example, a belt can be worn as a long necklace, or double wrapped as a choker. She incorporates asymmetrical designs or mixed metals with a classy edge and assimilates color tones that blend throughout an entire wardrobe.

The Company

Called simply Deborah Gaspar, the company's namesake is a graduate from UT Austin in Communications. Gaspar sells her work at selected retail locations around town and fine boutiques throughout the country. She also does exclusive shows for charity organizations saying, “It's very important for to me to give back to the community, charity work is a core part of my business and it's just one of those things that I won't compromise on.”

Gaspar has a dedicated studio in North Dallas set up specifically for the designing process and the hand-created construction of her work. “I have always been the creative type and I naturally gravitated to jewelry design as my passion,” she says pointing out her daily motto.

“It's not what the day gives you that is important, it is what you do with each day that makes it special” and she lives that too.

“For me, I thought that jewelry could be a medium to experiment with, something that I could design. The fact that my clients are just as proud to be wearing my pieces as I was creating them, gives me a great sense of accomplishment.”

Gaspar does about four to six trunk shows a month that include necklaces, belts, earrings, bangles and signature pieces from her Pavé diamond collection. SAKS Fifth Avenue in Dallas and New York City, Turtletique on Lovers Lane, Bandana in Aspen, Colorado and a number of other boutiques locally and around the country are all fans of her collections.

“My collection is very trunk show driven

and many pieces of my collection are unique, one-of-a-kind pieces,” she explains. “I am always creating new pieces, so I can't begin to even tell you how many pieces I've made; the collection is always growing and expanding.”

The Style One-of-a-kind creations are especially important in the world of jewelry design where colors, stones and metals are of great importance. Being inspired by, in two words “Mother Nature,” Gaspar says she prefers to work mainly with “uniquely cut, high quality, faceted stones in natural color stories and mother of pearl stones created exclusively for me.”

She primarily uses sterling silver, 14 karat gold filled or rose gold along with gunmetal links and her Pavé Collection is 14 karat gold with quality Pavé diamonds.

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Deborah with daughter, Rachel

rather than extravagance, that's my style,” she says adding, “versatility, wearability and uniqueness are also what I am constantly striving to emphasize.”

The Trend for Now

As for new trends, Gaspar says, “mix it up.” “Don't worry about any rules,” she says. “Necklaces are mixtures of mixed metals, shiny and matte, sometimes dressed up with pearls, natural stones and a bit of sparkle. Shades of grays and taupe are always top choices. Why not add a jewel-toned piece to your wardrobe? Wearing jewelry with even a hint of color can make

a refined and strong statement.” Her other suggestion is to wear long earrings with a wrist full of bangles or chain link bracelets to finish any look.

What Else

With a group of loyal team members who have been working with Gaspar for years, Deborah's clients have grown and evolved as have her designs. She has a broad price point of jewelry from bangles and earrings averaging from \$45 to \$250, to necklaces at \$295 to \$700, and her pave pendants retail range is from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

“When I began [designing jewelry] I really had a sense of who I wanted my customers to be—every woman, from the 25 year old trend setter, to the cheerleader mom, to the CEO of a major corporation. Versatility is what I'm known for,” she concludes.

Deborah is also known for making a non-jewelry wearing person—a jewelry wearing person, saying, “You would be surprised at the number of people that have come to one of my trunk shows wearing not a single piece of jewelry. They tell me they like jewelry but they just can't seem to figure out how to wear the right pieces with their favorite looks. After spending a little time with them, I'm able to help those women select items that are right for them, wearable, versatile and fashionable.”

Deborah Gaspar's designs have been seen on local celebrities including news anchor Clarice Tinsley, radio personality Victoria Snee from MIX 102.9 and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones' wife, Gene Jones, among others. For more information about upcoming trunk shows or to shop online visit www.deborahgaspar.com, 214-697-7390 or deborah@deborahgaspar.com



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