

More than 50 jewelry artists come to Boca Raton

By SKIP SHEFFIELD
STAFF WRITER

There's a lot more than just baubles, bangles and beads at the Boca Raton Museum of Art second annual Outdoor Jewelry Festival, to be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at Boca Center between Palmetto Park and Glades Roads in Boca Raton.

More than 50 jewelry artists have been chosen to display their wares. Not just anyone can get into the show, as former Boca Raton resident Jack Gualtieri can attest.

"We learned about the show too late last year," says Gualtieri from his home in Portland, Ore. "This time we submitted our work in the spring, and we made the cut. I am especially excited about having a homecoming to Boca Raton."

Jack and his wife Elizabeth create jewelry art under the name Zaffiro. The couple began their joint career while still

students at the University of Kansas. Gualtieri had enrolled there after attending A.D. Henderson School from kindergarten through eighth grade, and Pope John Paul II High School, where he graduated in 1985.

At the University of Kansas, Elizabeth won a B.F.A. (with highest distinction) in Metalsmithing and Jewelry while Jack earned a B.F.A. in Industrial Design. The couple married in 1993 and moved to Italy and then roamed the Southwestern United States before settling on the artists' community of Portland, Ore., in 1996.

"We do a couple shows like 'The Art of Jewelry' every year, but currently we are in several galleries in the Northwest," reports Jack. "We are going to be showing at Gallery III in Fort Lauderdale with three other Portland artists."

Gualtieri enclosed a history of Zaffiro that explains how the jewelry-making techniques of "granulation" (applying

minute spheres of gold, then heating the piece to a high enough temperature to form a permanent bond) harkens back to 2000 B.C. in Western Asia. Finest examples were produced by Etruscan goldsmiths in the eighth and ninth centuries B.C.

In their Zaffiro bio, the couple declares, "Jack and Elizabeth create jewelry out of a desire to synthesize the aesthetic ideals of the past and the present, to give the collector not only opulent gems and richly-ornamented surfaces, but beauty in the precious form of jewelry."

Other artists include Anthony Kim, a master goldsmith from Durham, N.C., whose works have been displayed at galleries and fine museums all over the country and whose clients range to South African and Central America.

Food vendors and live musical entertainment will also be provided. Admission is free. Call 392-2500. □



Jack and Elizabeth Gualtieri create jewelry like the piece at right under the name 'Zaffiro.'

