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FAST TRACK

The Path to a Quick Cast

**SOLVING TWO TRICKY
CASTING CHALLENGES**

**SELF-PUBLISHING YOUR
OWN LOOK BOOK**

GETTING STARTED WITH SPLIT LAPPING | CHOOSING WEB DEVELOPERS WISELY

IDEAS & INSPIRATION *The Bright Side*



Behind the Design

Elizabeth Gualtieri's favorites

Everyone has a favorite restaurant or uncle. But a favorite piece from your own collection? How do you choose? This month, designer Elizabeth Gualtieri (zaffirojewelry.com) of Portland, Oregon, shares one of her favorite designs, as well as one of her favorite pieces by another artist.

What's one of your favorite pieces that you designed and why?

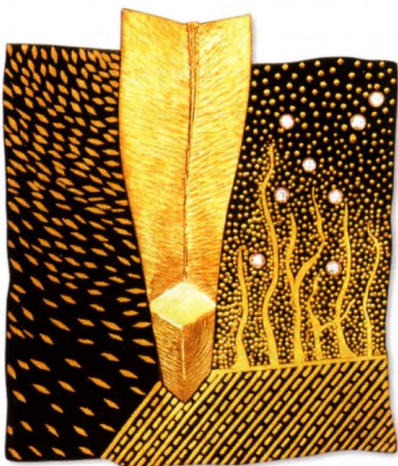
My favorite piece is my Cabinet of Curiosities pendant because it satisfies all of my creative urges—the *why* of what drives me to make jewelry: challenging construction, design, symbolism, and historical context. Like all of my important pieces, it started with a gemstone, in this case a branch coral.

The concept for this piece found its inspiration in Albertus Seba's *Cabinet of Natural Curiosities*, a fantastical book of color engravings from an 18th century naturalist. This book led to my exploration of the history of cabinet of curiosities—a personal collection of items of wonder, particularly in the area of natural history. The phenomenon originated during the Renaissance and continued into the Enlightenment. Not only did these collections contain insects, reptiles, shells, and minerals, but often the specimens were strange and exotic creatures meant to provoke fascination.

In addition, the construction of the piece presented a number of challenges and allowed me to experiment and expand on my fabrication and granulation skills. For me, the joy of problem solving and using my skills as a goldsmith to the best of my ability to create this piece is what makes it my favorite.



What is one of your favorite pieces that someone else made and why?



I'm utterly enchanted by the work of Namu Cho. I had a hard time selecting a favorite piece, but the brooch titled *Mirage 5* perhaps best illustrates what I find so compelling about his jewelry. From a goldsmithing point of view, I'm drawn to his technique of damascene in high karat gold and steel. Much like granulation, damascene is an ancient metalworking technique that requires a high degree of skill and has a rich and varied history. Cho applies this technique masterfully using designs and imagery that really appeal to me. And, from the couple of times that I've talked to him, he seems like a nice guy, too. ♦