


RAE BETH DESIGNS

by: Anne Fullem

photo

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“I am very fortunate to be able to do something I love so much, to be surrounded by people who want to express their flair for life. It is a dream come true.”

Rae Beth

Designer, Rae Beth, has been creating wearable art for as long as she can remember. "I have always created my own accessories," said Rae Beth. "The clothing I bought was never quite what I was looking for... so I would alter them into something new and unique." Her unique style didn't go unnoticed, and it wasn't long before people wanted to know where they could get such cool clothes and accessories. She began by doing original pieces for friends and family, quickly graduating to custom orders. It didn't take much imagination to realize that her passion would become a full time career. As time passed she found herself focusing more and more on the accessories. "I still create full costumes and accessories of all kinds when I receive a request. I just gravitated towards the headdresses and fascinators. I truly enjoy making them. The transformation they have on an outfit are unmistakable," smiled Rae Beth.

Rae Beth's creations are not only interesting in design, but in the unusual materials she uses to create them. Her designs include a wide variety of metals, semi-precious stones, feathers, bone, insects (yes... real insects), flowers, vintage items, Karen Hilltribe silver beads & charms from Thailand and so much more. "I am inspired by life itself... by ALL things, big, small, beautiful or twisted. I think if you pay close enough attention any and every thing shows you enough about itself to evoke inspiration," she said.

If you are wondering who might be in need of such beautiful and elaborate decoration for their head... you might be surprised. Her clients range from photographer's and models who covet her designs for upscale photo shoots, to hip young brides looking for something unique for their bridal party. "I design for all types of events and people. The Red Hat Society ladies, Kentucky Derby hat pieces, Burlesque dancers, pageant girls, festivals such as Electric Forest and Burning Man as well as many other costume opportunities, such as Faerie festivals, parades, Halloween (for children and adults), magazine editorials, drag queens, celebrities and just simply for every day fabulousness.... Pretty much anyone you can imagine," added Rae Beth.

With such creativity at work, I was curious to see what she thought were some of the more unusual projects she has worked on. Rae Beth replied, "I would imagine many of the orders I receive could be considered quite creative. I have made several full mermaid costumes at this point from headdress, bra top, and tail ornaments to the shoe decorations including my own for the Coney Island Mermaid Parade we march in every year. I have been asked to use road kill, which I accommodated. I have also been asked to add pieces of peoples beloved pets into accessories, whether it be mane hair from a horse, teeth from a cat, a skull from a dog... you name it. I feel very special to get to create such a wonderful commemoration in this way."

During her career, Rae Beth has been published in close to 100 online and print publications. "I am incredibly grateful for each and every one. Knowing that people are some how inspired by what I do or drawn to my designs enough to give me props or to include me thrills me to no end," explained Rae Beth. She has been featured at both RAW Baltimore as well as RAW Orlando, leading her to win the RAW Accessories Designer of the year in 2013. She has also been nominated by the MD Fashion Awards two years in a row. She adds, "I have been invited to Atlantic City Fashion week as well as NY fashion week this year, and I've been given the opportunity to be a part of Project Runways spin off show for accessories. So we shall see what I can handle on my plate for the near future. At the moment I am working on 5 sets of custom horns, a full body straw/hay outfit/costume, another ice queen and several baby headbands....lol...never a dull moment."



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