

*"Though my soul may set in
darkness, it will rise in perfect light.
I have loved the stars too fondly
to be fearful of the night."*

✿ *Sarah Williams, Poet*

by *Anne Fullem*
photography: *Amy Jones*
www.amyjphoto.com

TRACY CORMELL

↻ *String of Jewels* ↻

That beautiful snippet of a poem is hand stamped on the inside of an intricately detailed cuff bracelet worn on the wrist of jewelry designer, Tracy Cormell, and is currently her favorite quote. The owner of String of Jewels, she has developed a line of jewelry that is personal, inspirational, and beautiful.

Tracy found herself in Maryland when she attended college here and decided to stay. She worked as a speech pathologist for 12 years before settling down to have her family. Like many women in her position, she looked for an alternative source of income that would allow her to spend more time with her young family.

"My dad used to travel all over the world, and he would always bring me back wonderfully exotic gifts. He gave me a Fabrage egg pendant from Russia, and an ivory necklace from Barbados. But it was the beads, in their multitudes of colors and shapes that really captured my imagination," explained Tracy. Her skills are self taught, and through a long process of trial and error, Tracy developed her own style and techniques.

As much as Tracy loved her beads, she was looking for something original that would differentiate her from other jewelry designers in the marketplace. She settled on a technique of hand stamping which was not only used for embellishment,

but personalization. Names, dates, words of inspiration, secret messages, hand stamped onto her pieces, creating instant keepsakes with deep sentimental value.

Tracy's self-described style is a punk rocker trapped in a mom's body. Her jewelry reflects this with beautiful feminine lines, and an edginess that keeps her jewelry fun and fresh. Her jewelry is made from all types of materials. Beads are still a major component, but Tracy has fallen in love working with the different types of metals. She incorporates the metals with crystals, sea glass, gemstones, leather and some unconventional materials.

"I get so inspired by my customers. Quite often when they send in a personalized order, they share their stories with me. It's really a satisfying feeling to create something that helps them express such strong sentiments," said Tracy. She has a wide variety of customers, who are just as creative as she is when it comes to personalizing their jewelry. She even has a whole line of leather cuff bracelets designed just for men.

Check out some of Tracy's designs on the following two pages, and visit her website at, www.stringofjewels.com. If you're thinking what I'm thinking... that these would make great holiday gifts, make sure you give Tracy two weeks to get your personalized order ready in time for the gift giving season!

String of Jewels.....



jewelry
String of Jewels

model
Alex Hayden

hair & makeup
Caitlyn Meyer
Blackbird Artistry

styling
Amy Jones &
Caitlyn Meyer

photography
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