

Wire Wrapped Sea Glass Jewelry

...With An Uncommon Delight Embedded in the Design

By Lorraine Yapps Cohen

I'm always looking at jewelry. That's what jewelry makers do.

I'm always looking at jewelry in places besides jewelry stores. That's where the most creative jewelry designs are found.

I'm always looking for handmade jewelry made from materials besides gems. Innovative jewelry arises from uncommon sources.

I found beautiful wire-wrapped jewelry made from sea glass. Someone else found the sea glass on beaches of the Pacific Northwest. The original glass objects came from places unknown. Those delicately colored yet worn-smooth pieces of broken glass carried uncommon mystery along with their weathered beauty.

Found at a local farmers market

Erica Lyons, and her mother, Suzanne, fashion feminine adornment from their sea glass finds and retail them from their family jewelry shop on Orcas Island in Washington State. I was fortunate to find them in the unlikely place of [La Jolla's Farmers Market](#) among earth's edible gems of fruits, nuts, vegetables, cheese, and [designer cookies](#).

Manmade materials reshaped by nature

Each sea glass specimen is unique. You would be too, if you started out, say, as a bottle in the Philippines—as one of a zillion possible examples of glass trash—winding up embrittled, broken, ground down by sea and sand, and washed up on shores of the [Salish Sea](#).

Sea glass specimens have endured the wearing forces of nature up to eighty years to be suitable as naturally found "gems" for jewelry. Erica then provides the privilege of wearing nature's art in the art of her wire-wrapped jewelry creations.

Enhancement by design only

The unique character of each sea-glass find is enhanced through creative pendant and [wire-wrapped necklace designs](#), never by man-made reshaping or resizing. The only thing they do to the sea glass specimen is drill a hole.

Small specimens suitable for earrings often wait for a mate before design even begins. Expectedly, it may be some time before a similarly sized and colored specimen is found for setting in a matched pair of [handcrafted earrings](#).

Unique combination

Orcas Island Sea Glass produces another unique design option. They can bezel-set a small cut [diamond](#) in the sea glass. I've seen plenty of [unique jewelry designs](#), but never before one with such a uniquely uncommon combination.

I wished that I had thought of pairing sea glass with [diamonds](#) myself. But, alas, it takes a jewelry designer looking at the jewelry of others, while scouring markets for uncommon jewelry design ideas in uncommon places from uncommon materials in uncommon combinations.

Who knew? How unique! How uncommonly but naturally creative designs from [creative people](#)!

Sources: <http://www.orcaslandseaglass.com>

<http://www.seaglassjournal.com>

