



*Anna Biggs*



*Eleanor Turner*



*Maxine Rosenthal*

# Jewels of the Brandywine Valley

*Forget baubles and beads, these four designers create wearable works of art*

The paths that led Anna Biggs, Eleanor Turner, Maxine Rosenthal and Olga Ganoudis to jewelry-making might have been different, but their desire is the same: They each have a strong calling to satisfy their creative sides. In the following pages, discover how that passion is inspiring their art.

BY PAM GEORGE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JENNIFER CORBETT,  
GINGER WALL, FRED COMEGYS, KYLE GRANTHAM



*Olga Ganoudis*

## Maxine Rosenthal

Maxine "Max" Rosenthal is nothing if not exacting. The former DuPont Co. exec's studio space is neat as a pin, every set of pliers in place, jewelry carefully packaged and stored. Her work is typified by texture and an architectural preciseness that in some instances is reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright. Her work makes a bold statement, and the back is given as much thought as the front.

Rosenthal, a Rhode Island native, attended the Rhode Island School of Design as a teen. Although she decided not to go to art school, she kept taking art classes here and there. She recalls the watercolors class in which she attempted to create impressionist washes. "To say I didn't succeed was an understatement," says the Wilmington resident. "It wasn't my style."

In 1997, after 25 years, she left DuPont with a package, using all but \$40 of her retraining money to study metal-smithing at the University of Delaware and health administration at Widener University.

The influence of her background in weaving and pottery is evident on many etched pieces, which sport patchwork, patterns or Aztec-inspired designs. Adobe Photoshop has eased the process, allowing her to make the design larger or smaller without losing quality.

She opts for strong stones, such as agate or Picasso marble. "I put it on a piece of paper and compose around it," she explains. She often extends a line or a swirl outside the stone and onto the metal. "The stone speaks to me, telling me what form the piece should take." She now has a self-proclaimed fossil obsession and uses pieces of dinosaur eggs, turtle shell, sand dollars and petrified wood.

In response to her mother's pet peeve about hard-to-fasten clasps, Rosenthal created strands with scrolls, worn in front, as fasteners.

"It gave me an excuse to buy beads and pearls," she says. She carefully spaces each one, matching and alternating the bead sizes for symmetry.

Rosenthal sells most of her work at craft shows and through her Web site, [www.maxrosenthal.com](http://www.maxrosenthal.com), with prices ranging from \$40 to \$800. Having to mass produce for wholesale clients is not her thing. "There are too many constraints," she says. "I want to make what I want to make, and people can pick out whatever they like."

