

women  
who make  
beautiful  
things

# Natural Ingredients

Zimbabwe, Hawaii, the doctor's office—Kevia Jeffrey-West can spot an idea for her handcrafted jewelry line wherever she goes.



**Kevia Jeffrey-West**  
AGE 35  
FOUNDER, KEVIA  
PORTLAND, OREGON



**Lotus-shaped honeycomb earrings** in 22kt-gold vermeil with flush-set cubic zirconia (\$188).

**Teardrop pendant** in 22kt-gold vermeil with flush-set cubic zirconia on 14kt-gold-filled chain (\$238).

**Stacking bangle** in hand-textured 22kt-gold vermeil (\$100).

**Handmade ring** with pounded finish and flush-set cubic zirconia (\$188).

**Multichain necklace** with citrine, blue topaz, and clear crystal quartz stones (\$375).

**Rococo lace ring** with blue topaz rose-cut stone (\$175).

➤ **The goods** Inspired by ancient civilizations and the natural world (honeycombs, tree bark, oyster shells), Kevia Jeffrey-West uses semiprecious stones, intricate metalwork, and reclaimed wood in her fine jewelry line (kevia.biz).

➤ **The spark** “It all started when I walked into a shop in Harare,” says Jeffrey-West, who did a study-abroad program in Zimbabwe in the late '90s. She bought local gems, sketched some ideas, and asked jewelers to execute her designs; by watching them, she learned to hammer and solder silver.

➤ **The switch** Back in the United States and four years into a PhD in education, Jeffrey-West was still crafting jewelry as a hobby. “A classmate asked me to make a necklace like the one I was wearing, and I thought, *Are you sure?*” she recalls with a laugh. “It never occurred to me that I could sell my stuff.”

➤ **The latest** She has recently found ideas in Hawaii (the swirls of bubbling gold and silver in her Magma collection are modeled on melting lava) and closer to home. “At the doctor’s office, I saw an anatomical drawing of inner ear tissue and thought, *That texture is fantastic!*”

— BROOKE KOSOFSKY GLASSBERG