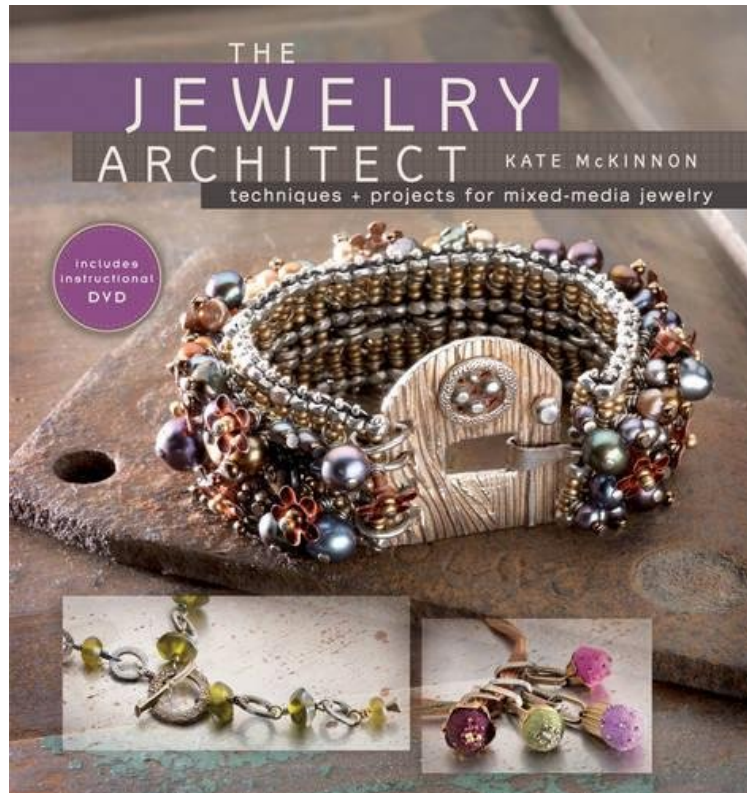


The Jewelry Architect: Techniques and Projects for Mixed-Media Jewelry

Kate Mckinnon

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Kate Mckinnon : The Jewelry Architect: Techniques and Projects for Mixed-Media Jewelry before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Jewelry Architect: Techniques and Projects for Mixed-Media Jewelry:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding!By Song BirdThe mixed-media designs in this book are truly innovative. Kate Mckinnon's work is stunning and inspirational. I admire her craftsmanship and precision in her work as well as her creativity. This is not one of the many ordinary jewelry making books on the market for hobbyists, and it is definitely for an advanced or ambitious intermediate level jewelry maker.I like to combine techniques, and although instructions are included for all jewelry making techniques described in her projects, you would be ahead of the game to have already mastered them. These techniques include basic metalsmithing, sewn beadworking (bead stitching), stringing, and wire work. Forming components in PMC is also included in some of these projects, so you would need access to a kiln to complete them. However, in many cases you could employ another forming technique as a substitute. That is the whole point of the book, really; that is, creating one of a kind pieces by combining different techniques and materials.Although many of the designs in the book are standard designs in jewelry making, it's the creative combination of various media and methods that take them from ordinary to extraordinary. This book should

get your creative juices flowing and inspire you to experiment with your work. Obviously you can choose to execute these projects just as described or with variations, but I think it is better to take inspiration and develop your own style. I love that clasp formed with fine silver clay and forged sterling wire on the bracelet featured on the cover. I wish I had designed that; but it certainly gives me some ideas for my own. Great book!

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. You will want to add this to your jewelry techniques reference library

By JenniferI pre-ordered *The Jewelry Architect* from because I love Kate McKinnon's books and her work. It arrived in time for me to flip through it during my husband's heart surgery, but I was not in the state of mind to really look at it, understand the concept of the book and therefore I put it aside for about a month. I recently spent some quality time with this gem of a book, a cup of coffee, and a comfy chair and promptly fell head over heels. First of all, the book is well done, the photos are gorgeous and detailed. Everything is explained in a clear and concise manner. The focus of the book is how to construct strong, supple, beautiful jewelry in several different media that will last FOREVER. That's the part I didn't get when my brain was in squishy mode back at the beginning of November. There are 5 "Meat and Potatoes" chapters plus a gallery of eye candy. Each section has a short note from McKinnon on the topic of that particular section. The first section, titled *Elements*, McKinnon that writes: "I consider myself a maker of components, an engineer of connections....and only when the mood strikes do I assemble them into finished pieces." There are more nuggets of wisdom that can perhaps shed light on how you work or how you might work smarter. *Elements* contains 7 specific projects: 3 clasps, 2 ear wires, and 2 ring findings. This chapter alone is worth the price of the book. McKinnon shows the reader how to use wire and/or clay to create beautiful one of a kind findings that will elevate your jewelry to the next level plus make it structurally sound. One of the clasps is just brilliant and makes me want to try beadweaving a cuff just so I have something to use that clasp on. The second chapter is titled *Stringing*, has 3 projects, and covers some basics of bead stringing and easy ways to add lushness and surprising elements to your designs. The third chapter is titled *Beadwork*. McKinnon's first foray into making jewelry was through sewn beadwork. Let me tell you, this chapter had me drooling and wishing I did beadwork. I love all 6 designs, how she adds extra components to make each piece unique, using media other than just seed beads. One of the ways she uses other media is through felt. There is a very clever design in which you can add or subtract from the base felt piece to change the look every day if you would like. The *Riverbed Bracelet* (the large photo on the cover of the book) is too stunning for words. I want to make one for myself one day. The fourth chapter is called *Wire and Metalwork*, which focuses heavily (but not exclusively) on metal clay combined with fine silver. The 6 projects include a fun cha cha kind of pearl cluster to hang on a chain. Another project is a fun mechanical chain made with silver clay. My two favorite projects are the *Kaleidoscop Setting* and the *Treasure Boxes* because they are so awesome and would be a great fit with my lampwork beads. The fifth chapter is the *Basics* section and is much heavier on the basics than the typical book. You won't be disappointed in it. Included with the book is a bonus DVD where McKinnon demonstrates certain techniques and chats about structure. The crimping lesson alone is worth the price of the book. Maybe I will finally get that technique nailed. However, the DVD also covers topics on stitching, fiber, metal clay, and wire. McKinnon is not a flamboyant person by any stretch of the imagination, but her passion for the subject of creating long lasting heirloom jewelry is very apparent.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. TEN stars!

By Liz WindsorI'd give this one ten stars if I could. It is chock full of wonderful creative and structural information and techniques from an author who is widely known for her offbeat and often brilliant designs. Kate McKinnon tends to move along in her design modes; known for many years primarily for her metal works, she has spent the past 3-4 years in the burgeoning world of creative geometric beadwork, and has so far produced two stunning books on that topic. But her older structural work truly does influence her current forms; metalwork has the potential of hundreds of years; one certainly expects the beadwork to last for decades. This book and its accompanying DVD are loaded with little and big ideas for design, structure, finishing, and artistic considerations. My advice? Grab a copy of this while you still can. It's a superb reference for design and technique.

Innovative jewelry artist Kate McKinnon takes you on a creative journey of techniques and projects in *The Jewelry Architect* as she uses a variety of materials and tools to create gallery-quality bracelets, necklaces, and rings. Beautiful color photographs and clearly written instructions will give you the building blocks to combine wirework, metal clay, beadwork, and traditional metalsmithing to create one-of-a-kind, wearable art pieces. Learn how to combine techniques and how to manufacture a variety of components such as clasps, hooks, earring findings, and ring bases to customize your work. Revel in Kate's signature style, an earthy melange of metal, beads, and fibers, as you make 16 gorgeous fashion-forward projects. In addition, *The Jewelry Architect* shares tips on the best ways to reinforce beadwork, bind edges, string components, form metal clay ring bands, fuse rings, create head pins, and so much more. With *The Jewelry Architect*, you will learn how mixing techniques and media can create art-to-wear jewelry.

From Booklist*Starred * McKinnon presents an intriguing, highly professional way to create beaded jewelry that doesn't resemble loving hands at home. I'm a maker of components, an engineer of connections, McKinnon says, and throughout the 15 projects and seven structural elements (e.g., clasps, ear wires, ring findings) she discusses, its clear

that the engineering conceit fuels her work. Curiously, much of the volume's presentation centers on beading, a craft she learned as a child. Yet her incorporation of best-possible materials, whether a slew of Victorian buttons or already fashioned felt cupcakes, distinguishes each design. Unfortunately, skill level is not always designated clearly, only indicated from time to time in introductory material. Trial and error, though, is a welcomed technique, which McKinnon encourages through her inclusion of project notes, tips, and possible variations. The last chapter summarizes the basics and refers readers to her previous book, *Sculptural Metal Clay Jewelry*. So, if today is Tuesday, do we opt to fashion and wear a dramatic mechanical chain, the whimsical Pucks bracelet, or the extraordinarily intricate corset-stitch cuff? Many top-notch choices. --Barbara Jacobs "McKinnon presents an intriguing, highly professional way to create beaded jewelry that doesn't resemble loving hands at home. 'I'm a maker of components, an engineer of connections,' McKinnon says, and throughout the 15 projects and seven structural elements (e.g., clasps, ear wires, ring findings) she discusses, it's clear that the engineering conceit fuels her work. Curiously, much of the volume's presentation centers on beading, a craft she learned as a child. Yet her incorporation of best-possible materials, whether a slew of Victorian buttons or already fashioned felt cupcakes, distinguishes each design. Unfortunately, skill level is not always designated clearly, only indicated from time to time in introductory material. Trial and error, though, is a welcomed technique, which McKinnon encourages through her inclusion of project notes, tips, and possible variations. The last chapter summarizes the basics and refers readers to her previous book, *Sculptural Metal Clay Jewelry*. So, if today is Tuesday, do we opt to fashion and wear a dramatic mechanical chain, the whimsical Puck's bracelet, or the extraordinarily intricate corset-stitch cuff? Many top-notch choices." - Barbara Jacobs, Booklist *Starred * "I love Kate's jewelry making philosophy: let's make jewelry that lasts a thousand years. Buy the book, and learn to make better jewelry than you have ever made." - B'Sue Boutiques "The Jewelry Architect may not appeal to those looking for quick fix, immediately gratification projects. Instead, it is geared more towards the knowledgeable (though not necessarily expert) jewelry maker who is looking for ways to better construct his or her jewelry as well as find methods for combining interesting materials such as fiber, metal clay, and glass beads." - Tammy Powley, About.com Guide "Let Kate be one of your teachers. Get the book, read it carefully, and watch the DVD over and over until it is imbedded into your brain. I learned something about myself and my own creative philosophies by reflecting on hers. I wish the same for you." - Bsueboutiques.typepad.com "My favorite jewelry-making book of all time." - Tammy Jones, JewelryMakingDaily.com "This book is a delectable smorgasbord of color, material, and technique, which not only enticed me to try some of the projects but to dream up new ones on my own. She offers basic skills in beadwork, metal clay, and stringing that you can incorporate into your own work no matter what style you embrace, and she teaches you how to build it so it will last a lifetime. I value books that can give me a foundation in some area that I may build upon later with my own experimentation." - Pattylakinsmith.blogspot.com