



# Crafting Diva

Linzi Alford *Interview*

**A passion for sparkly and shiny objects together with magpie-like tendencies has led Linzi on an exciting journey into jewellery designing and making.**

As a child I used to collect pretty stones and fossils. Now as an adult and a closet geologist I still love semi-precious and unusual stones and that has transpired into a love of beads too! I am inspired by nature, love taking photographs and incorporating those both into my designs.

I also love finding objects and vintage pieces as I am fascinated by their history – what stories they could tell. My 'treasure' is quirky and unusual components, repurposing old and broken jewellery into new designs is a favourite of mine. Of course being able to make my own one of kind pieces of jewellery to wear is a bonus!

**Where do you live and why do you enjoy living there?**

I am fortunate to live in South Lakeland in England, a very beautiful part of the country. I live in a small rural village, where I am a five minute walk away from the woods and river where I take so many of my photos. It is 'MY' place of reflection and is, literally full of reflections of the trees in the water.

**Is there an artist or designer who is a major inspiration for your work?**

The person who has influenced me most is an amazing lady – Brenda Sue Lansdowne, who owns the jewellery supplies company B'sueBoutiques.com in the USA. She has taken me under her wing, encouraged me at every step and shared in my triumphs. She has been a designer for many years and has a vast knowledge of vintage and antique jewellery.

**What do you think is one of the most important values of a Creative Diva?**

I think being generous with your ideas, allowing those to inspire others is important. Also imagination and tenacity as sometimes things don't go to plan but hang on in there.

**What do you enjoy most about your craft?**

I love the variation. Freedom to explore new ideas and the joys of those that work and the challenge to rescue those that don't! I also enjoy being able to take an idea from a concept in your head through to an actual wearable design.

**For anyone who may be new to your craft how can they learn some of the skills involved?**

Raid your local library for jewellery-making books then practise, practise and practise some more. Tutorials online and on DVDs also will help. Become involved with other people sharing the same passions for example; Facebook groups, internet forums and join a local group or club. Social interaction will preserve your sanity and provide a vast source of knowledge.

**Would you please share with us any information about organisations, galleries or shows that you are involved with?**

I am a member of my local Artisan Roaming Gallery – the Lakes Collective. This is a group of artisans and makers are all from my area. Every month they hold a local fair.

**Do you have any tips you would like to share with our readers?**

Don't give up – keep learning new things. If boredom sets in you perhaps just haven't found your 'niche' yet. Experiment, some great designs have come from happy accidents. Network, find like-minded people to share your ideas with. Devour all books in fact in my opinion almost everything can be inspirational.

**Do you work from home or do you have a designated crafting space and what is the best storage system in your workplace? Why does it work for you?**

I work from home, mostly on my kitchen table a.k.a spoil heap which sometimes spills into all directions. My supplies are all boxed neatly and organised. I like the freedom to work around family commitments. I can just sit at my table and make a few bits whilst making tea... (though not recommended as I've managed many a burned tea!)

**Do you keep a crafting journal or portfolio of inspirations and ideas?**

I have a scruffy notebook that I jot down ideas into in my illegible writing. I tend to keep ideas just in my head until they are made. It gets busy in there sometimes! Also I have had some photo books made up of finished pieces with the original photos that inspired them – these are useful at craft shows to showcase previous works.

**What are your future goals and plans?**

I would like to produce a book one day of inspirational projects and my photos. I hope to continue writing for magazines – it is a privilege to see your work in print.

**In future issues of My Creative Diva what articles, advice and projects are you contributing that our readers may look forward to?**

I am looking forward to sharing jewellery projects with your subscribers and showing them how they too can make glamorous accessories to further enhance their wardrobe.



I THINK BEING GENEROUS WITH YOUR IDEAS, ALLOWING THOSE TO INSPIRE OTHERS IS IMPORTANT.

