



the right stuff

Curated by Amanda Rae Busch
Photography by Kevin Sprague

My Precious

WEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING

"Costume jewelry has been refined into contemporary jewelry," states **Miravidi**, the Parisian company founded by designer Jean-Baptiste Michel in 1994. Eschewing metals and stones for more earth-friendly materials like colorful Plexiglas and slinky metallic cord, the atelier crafts lightweight accessories with a graceful aesthetic that transcends their basic composition. "Given that metals are so high [in price] now, this jewelry is a unique alternative," says Williams College Museum of Art shop manager Michele Migdal. It's slinky stuff indeed—who knew acrylic resins and nylon fibers could be so . . . seductive?

Bracelets starting at about \$90, necklaces at \$125, at **WCMA**, 15 Lawrence Hall Dr., Williamstown, Mass., 413.597.3179, www.wcma.org; www.miravidi-usa.com

DELICATE MATTER

Composed of fresh- and saltwater pearls, Venetian glass, rock crystal, and bits of sterling silver, the delicate, handmade trinkets by New York City designer **Dorian Webb** are both stunning and understated at the same time. "The pieces are very elegant and can be worn casually or in a more formal way," notes *À Table* proprietor Pierre Legere, who suggests trying the designer's lariat both ways: as a single, subtle strand or layered dramatically. Either is sure to impress.

Starting at about \$165 at **À Table**, 4 Main St., Lenox, Mass., 413.637.5066, www.atable-lenox.com; www.dorianwebb.com





NATURAL MYSTIC

"I want you to be walking in the woods or on the beach and imagine that you find the piece—nothing is contrived," says designer-artist **Dawn Wain** of her collection of organic necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and pins. She approaches her craft as a treasure hunt of sorts, scouting rocks, feathers, corals, and gems to arrange in wearable tableaux. Some seem plucked straight from the environment—but always with care. "It is really engineering," Wain coos, explaining how she assembles the works as gently as possible. And her work, like all things earthly, is truly timeless. "In nature, there are no colors that don't go together," Wain explains. "Nothing is ever in or out."

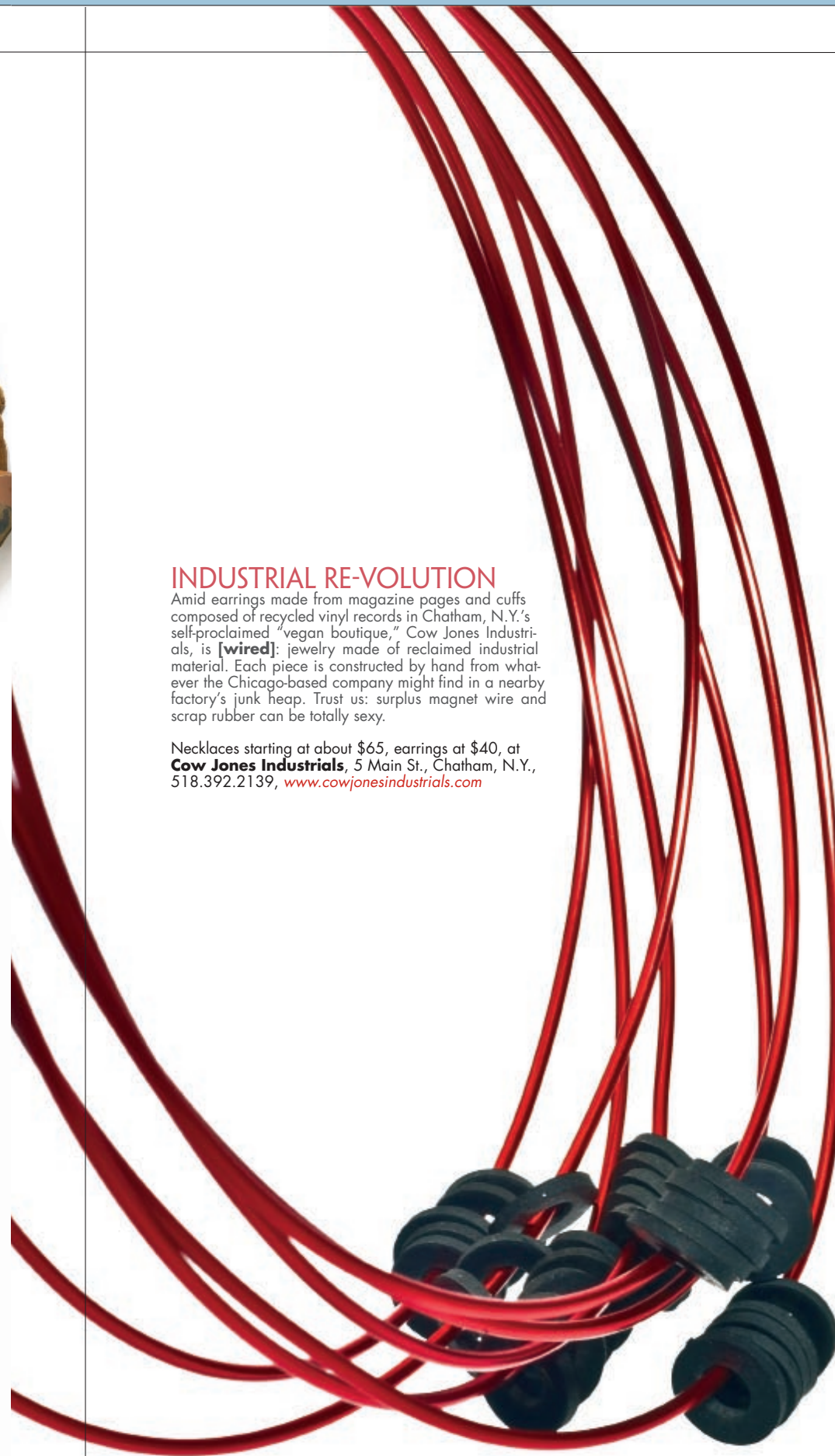
Earrings starting at about \$140, necklaces at \$350, at **Kripalu Shop**, Route 183, Lenox, Mass., 413.448.3190, www.kripalu.org; **Berkshire Green And Healthy Living Expo**, July 12-13, Ski Butternut, Great Barrington, Mass., 800.834.9437, www.berkshiresgreenandhealthylivingexpo.com; **Berkshire Crafts Fair**, August 8-10, Great Barrington, Mass., 413.528.3346, www.berkshirecraftsfair.org; or custom order through **Dawn Wain**, Clinton, Conn., 860.669.4466



FINDERS KEEPERS

Jennifer Story doesn't have a particularly inspirational backstory to her jewelry—she just combines bits and pieces she thinks will harmonize. The former fashion designer unites semiprecious stones, metals, and woods—sometimes haphazardly, so that the finished piece might seem plucked from a treasure chest. "It was an easy progression for me, to turn to creating jewelry," Story says. Her newest line, "**Earthenwear**," pays homage to the planet with turquoise, bone, and wood—with sporadic bits of Tibetan silver and Swarovski crystal for sparkle.

Pieces starting at about \$75 at **Twigs**, 51 Church St., Lenox, Mass., 413.637.0711; or through **Jennifer Story**, Richmond, Mass., 917.494.9623



INDUSTRIAL RE-VOLUTION

Amid earrings made from magazine pages and cuffs composed of recycled vinyl records in Chatham, N.Y.'s self-proclaimed "vegan boutique," Cow Jones Industrials, is **[wired]**: jewelry made of reclaimed industrial material. Each piece is constructed by hand from whatever the Chicago-based company might find in a nearby factory's junk heap. Trust us: surplus magnet wire and scrap rubber can be totally sexy.

Necklaces starting at about \$65, earrings at \$40, at **Cow Jones Industrials**, 5 Main St., Chatham, N.Y., 518.392.2139, www.cowjonesindustrials.com



CREATURE FEATURES

"I sit and watch the dragonflies race by in the field," says Southfield, Mass.-based designer Joyce Weeks, describing the inspiration behind the delicate beetles and butterflies she strings from a rainbow of minuscule glass seed beads. Her one-of-a-kind beaded-bug necklaces are intensely detailed, with iridescent patterns in bright jewel tones, lifelike composition, Swarovski crystal eyes—even tiny, movable wire legs. And even though Weeks cops to using field guides when creating templates, her creatures are "not meant to look real, just fanciful." Needless to say, **Southfield Designs'** eight-legged creations garner the most noticeable reactions: "Whenever I wear the spider, people either smile . . . or walk away."

Starting at about \$30 at **Evergreen**, 91 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass., 413.528.0511, www.evergreencrafts.com; **Purple Plume**, 35 Church St., Lenox, Mass., 413.637.3442; **Wonderful Things**, 232 Stockbridge Rd., Great Barrington, Mass., 413.528.2473, www.wonderfulthings.com; or custom order through **Joyce Weeks**, 413.229.8872, www.southfelddesigns.com



POLISHED IMAGE

Help save the elephants! Well, sort of. The tagua "horn" collection from eco-jewelry outfit **Belart** is derived from the seeds of the green ivory-nut palm—the "elephant plant" that produces the vegetable equivalent of animal tusks. Totally organic, biodegradable, sustainable, fairly traded, you name it—tagua, an all-natural, durable material with exceptional smoothness, was originally used along the Pacific coast of Colombia to create garment buttons. Now it's carved carefully and polished tirelessly into bold orbs that create chain-link necklaces and chunky rings, available here thanks to a partnership between craftsmen in the Green Mountains of Vermont and the medium's original artisans in Latin America.

Rings about \$12, earrings \$14, bracelets \$46, cord necklaces \$48, linked necklaces \$125, at **Vlada Boutique**, 17 Elm St., Stockbridge, Mass., 413.298.3656; www.belartes.com

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