

Chatterbox #12 – Jewelry Designer Sheena Purcell

Transcript

Maura: Hello everyone out there! This is your **Chatterbox** podcast with Culips. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. And in this Chatterbox episode, Harp is going to interview our friend, Sheena. If you want the transcript, or any other explanations for this episode, you can get them at our website in Lipservice. So, Sheena is a good friend of ours who recently moved to Montreal. She's a **jewelry** designer. And she also has taught English in Japan, and she travelled around Asia, too. Now Sheena is going to start by telling us about herself.

Harp: So, Sheena, do you want to introduce yourself a little bit?

Sheena: Sure. My name's Sheena. I'm from the east coast of Canada, a place called **Nova Scotia**, and I've been living here in Montreal for about nine months now, and before that I moved from Japan where I was living for about three and a half years. Yeah, I was in Japan teaching English and also making **jewelry**.

Harp: Wow, OK! So, I went to your website today and your **jewelry** designs are amazing. So tell me, you went to school for **jewelry** design or how did you get started?

Sheena: Yes. Well, actually my mother was a **jeweler** when I was a child, and she stopped when I was about eight years old. So, it was always something that I was a little bit interested in, but it was **in the back of my mind**. But I started studying art at university, and when I was in my second year I started to try the **jewelry** program and I realized that it was something I liked and I did a **major** in **jewelry** design and **metalsmithing** and I graduated in 2004.

Harp: So, where do you **draw** inspiration for your **pieces**?

Sheena: I've lived in a lot of different places, so I get a lot of inspiration from the people that I'm around and the way that people interact when they're in situations where they don't have language or when they can't communicate using words. So **body language**, or the way that people interact with one another, also nature, different forms, patterns that I may see from plants, ice, sand. Things like this.

- Harp: I was looking through the book that you've made, where you see pictures of a girl wearing the socks, and you had created a **jewelry piece** that was an inspiration from her. It seems like you can take inspiration from anything.
- Sheena: Yeah, it's amazing the small things you can see that will bring an idea or a design into your mind and it's not necessarily something that you would think is **jewelry**, you know. If you see the way someone walks, for example. But it's nice if you can make a **piece** that makes people think as well, it's not only something pretty or something with beautiful stones, but something that makes you feel something or makes you think a little bit.
- Harp: That's amazing!
- Sheena: Thank you.
- Harp: What's your favorite **piece** of **jewelry** that you've made so far?
- Sheena: Wow, that's a difficult question. **Let's see** ... Actually it's probably a **brooch** that I made while I was living in Japan, and it's using a branch from the **sakura** tree, and it's set with a stone that's called the tiger's eye ring and it's actually a **magnetic** stone, so it actually attracts metal to it.
- Harp: Really?
- Sheena: And it is known as being a stone that helps you to accept change in your life. So I made it at the time of the *Sakura* season, which is in March, and it was around the same time that my son was born, and it's just about change, change in your life and change in the world around you. And I haven't yet, but I'm going to give it to a friend of mine who **lost her husband**, just as sort of like an inspirational thing to help you accept change in your life.
- Harp: Wow, that's really interesting. Where do you get your **jewelry supplies** from?
- Sheena: I've collected a lot while I've been travelling, and so I have some that I bought while I was in different places and I have some that my mother bought when she was travelling in Mexico like 30 years ago.
- Harp: Wow.
- Sheena: And then some I just buy here in Montreal.
- Harp: How does your mom feel about your **jewelry** design?

- Sheena: She's really, you know, excited to see that I'm still **doing jewelry** and she's actually started **to do jewelry** again.
- Harp: Really?
- Sheena: Yeah, in recent years, yeah.
- Harp: Oh, that is great.
- Sheena: Yeah, it's great.
- Harp: OK, so that's about it for our Chatterbox episode today. Thanks so much for joining us. That was really interesting.
- Sheena: No problem.
- Harp: So if you all go to the website we're going to add some links to Sheena's website and so you can see pictures of the great **jewelry** she makes. Yeah, so just check out the website, that's Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Detailed Explanation

Jewelry

This is an important word in the episode, if you understand it you'll understand the episode.

Jewelry is a big category that consists of many different items. Here is a short list of the most common kinds of **jewelry**:

- Rings
- Necklaces
- Bracelets
- Earrings
- **Brooches**

Sheena says that her favorite **piece** that she has created is a **brooch**. A **brooch** has a pin on the back, so when you wear it you pin it to your shirt. It is usually worn close to the shoulder. Here is a picture of Sheena's favourite **piece**, the **sakura brooch**.



“**Brooch**” is pronounced differently than it looks. It rhymes with “coach.”

So “**jewelry**” is just the category for all these items. We cannot count **jewelry**, but we can only count the **pieces** of **jewelry**, like three rings, two earrings, etc.

Jewelry also has another spelling: “**jewellery**.” “**Jewellery**” with the extra “e” and “l” is the British spelling. They are pronounced the same.

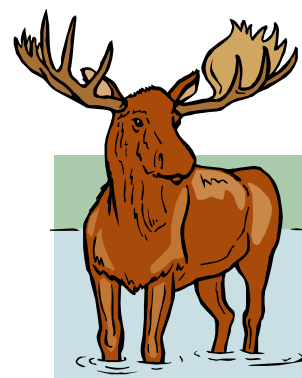
Someone who makes **jewelry** is called a “jeweler.” So, Sheena is a jeweler.

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia is a province in Canada. It is a region, like Sheena says, in the eastern part of Canada. Provinces in the eastern part of Canada are called “Maritime provinces,” so **Nova Scotia** is a Maritime province too. It is a small Canadian province and has typical

Canadian weather, experiencing all four seasons. **Nova Scotia** also gets hurricanes, which we do not get in the rest of Canada. The capital of the province of **Nova Scotia** is Halifax.

Sheena is from a famous part of **Nova Scotia** called **Cape Breton**. Every year, many tourists visit this place. There are not a lot of people, but there is a lot of space, so it is calm and quiet. There is a big national park in the middle of **Cape Breton** island and a famous road around the island called the Cabot Trail. The nature there is great, you can see many beaches, mountains, and wild animals like moose and foxes.



This is a moose.

In the back of my mind

Here is a true idiomatic expression for you! To have something “**in the back of your mind**” means that you had it in your mind, or you were thinking about it sometimes, but it was not your focus or the first thing you were thinking about.

If you were thinking about something all the time, it would be at the front of your mind. So, something you only think about sometimes is in the back.

Though it is not the first thing we are thinking, we use “**in the back of my mind**” to prove that we were thinking about it or did consider it, maybe even unconsciously.

Sheena says, “I was a little bit interested in **jewelry**, but it was **in the back of my mind**.” Sheena means that it was not the first thing she was thinking about, but that she was thinking about studying **jewelry** a little bit.

Here are some other examples with “**in the back of my mind**”:

Harriet: Did you ever think that what you said was not nice?

Joe: **In the back of my mind** I did.

Jon: I always knew **in the back of my mind** that we would become a couple.

Freda: I wasn't sure what to do, but **in the back of my mind** I suppose I had the solution.

The mind is like your brain. We can also use the expression "**in the back of your head**" in the same way.

A major

We talk about this university vocabulary in our Chatterbox episodes "Living on Campus" and "Living off Campus."

A **major** is the main subject area that you study at university. A **minor** is the subject area that you study too, but in which you take fewer courses than your **major**.

Metalsmith

A **metalsmith** is someone who works with metal. In **jewelry**-making metal is often used, and so someone who makes **jewelry** can also be a **metalsmith**.

Sheena says that she had a **major** in **metalsmithing**. Technically "**to metalsmith**" is not a verb, instead we would say "to metalwork." In English, we have many nouns that are also verbs (for example, "work," "shovel," and "call") and we like to make new ones, too. Sometimes we are using these new verbs before they are in the dictionary! The English language is always changing and expanding.

Draw

The most common use for the verb "**to draw**" is to use a pencil and create a picture on a piece of paper. In this case, Harp is using "**draw**" in a different way. "**Draw**" here means to pull something towards you.

Harp asks, "So, where do you **draw** inspiration for your **pieces**?" Written in another way this means, "Where do you take (and bring towards you) the inspiration for your **jewelry**?" We could also say, "Where do you get the inspiration for your **jewelry**?"

Here are some other examples using "**draw**" in the same way:

Something about the painting **drew** me to it.
(I felt pulled towards the painting, or felt connected to it.)

I was **drawn** to Japan even before I visited it.
(I felt pulled toward Japan.)

Piece

The literal meaning of “**piece**” is a part of something, an amount of a whole. For example, “a **piece** of pizza” or “two **pieces** of cloth.”

But we can also use “**piece**” to talk about art! Something that an artist creates can be called a **piece**. A painting can be called a **piece**, writing can be called a **piece**, and of course **jewelry** can be referred to by “**piece**” as well.

Greg: Have you been to the modern art museum recently?

Joan: Yes, and the new **pieces** they have are amazing!

(These “new **pieces**” could be paintings or sculptures or any kind of art.)

Body language

This is the communication that happens without language, but by using the body. It is completely non-verbal (no talking) and uses bodily movements (gestures) and facial expressions.

Body language could be as simple as waving your hand to say hello to someone, or as complicated as the way someone sits which shows they are not interested in what you are saying.

When people cannot communicate verbally, or they do not know how to speak the same language, they can sometimes use their body to communicate.

Let's see

“**Let's see**” is an expression used when you are not sure what to say next. This could happen, like it does with Sheena, when you are answering a question. It is used instead of an empty space. If you are not sure what to say, sometimes it is better to say something than nothing at all.

Here are some examples:

Peter: What do you think is your best quality?

Sally: Hmm ... **let's see**. I'm not sure. I think I would say I'm pretty funny.

Jennifer: OK, so let's make a list of what we need for the party!

Doug: First, we need the food and the decorations.

Brian: And then we need some music. Anything else?

Jennifer: **Let's see**. We also need to get some drinks.

Sakura

This is the Japanese word for cherry blossoms or the cherry blossom trees, but we can also use “**sakura**” when we speak English.

To lose someone

Sheena says her friend “**lost a husband.**” This means that her friend’s husband died. To say someone “**lost**” another person is a more polite and sensitive way to say that someone died. It can be considered too direct to say the word “die” sometimes, especially when the death was recent.

To be respectful, you could also say that someone “passed away” which is another expression for “died.”

To do or to make jewelry?

In this episode we hear “**to do jewelry**” but that is not correct. It should be “**to make jewelry.**” The difference between “make” and “do” can be difficult for English language learners to remember. Sometimes even native English speakers don’t use them properly.

The correct usage is “**to make jewelry.**”

Quiz (see the answers at the bottom of this Lipservice)**1. Which Canadian province is Sheena from?**

- a) Newfoundland
- b) Nova Scotia
- c) New Brunswick
- d) Quebec

2. What kind of jewelry is Sheena's favourite piece?

- a) earrings
- b) a ring
- c) a brooch
- d) a necklace

3. Sheena says that when she first started art school, the idea of studying jewelry was _____.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) in the back of her mind
- b) in the front of her mind
- c) in the back of her brain
- d) not even in her mind

4. We use this word to talk about artistic creations; for example, a painting, a poem, or some jewelry. What is this word?

- a) necklace
- b) pebble
- c) peace
- d) piece

5. Sheena draws some of the inspiration for her jewelry from non-verbal communication called _____.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) smiling
- b) talking
- c) body language
- d) language of the soul

6. Harp asks Sheena a difficult question, "Which piece is your favourite?" Sheena is not sure how to answer. While Sheena thinks of her answer she says _____.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) let's see
- b) let's go
- c) let us
- d) let me

7. What is the correct expression that means "to create jewelry"?

- a) to do jewelry
- b) to make jewelry

Answers: 1.b 2.c 3.a 4.d 5.c 6.a 7.b