

## Liz Smith

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In between Liz's cat herding duties at her Millers Falls home (what appears to be six or seven cats is actually only three sneaky and persistent ones) the story of her jewelry craft emerges. Liz credits her mother's disapproval of pierced ears with her own fascination with personal adornment after (finally!) piercing her ears at 18 years old. Nothing like declaring a taboo for instigating an obsession!

Starting with wire wrapping of natural stones, beads and pearls in the early 90's, Liz discovered a shrink plastic method that has been her bread and butter for 15 years or more. Lightweight and inexpensive, this allows her to explore her love of drawing and painting and design in miniature form. She utilizes color pencil, chalk pastel, and acrylic paints and inks on the plastic material which is then baked. The heat bonds the surface decoration to the plastic while shrinking the whole item 40%. The effect is to intensify color and design properties, creating vividly detailed earrings, pendants, and hair barrettes. Adding beads and artful twists of wire completes her unique "Rough Magic" jewelry. For many years jewelry making was a joint venture with her friend Morgan (Heather) Clark under the "Wyrld Sisters" name. The synergy of their creative efforts propelled them into the craft fair, flea market, and farmer's market circuit together, a time that Liz remembers as being both exciting and exhausting.

The big push to market their wares also landed them in the first jury at the Shelburne Arts Coop in August of 1998. Membership at the Coop meant the discovery of a consistent market for their wares that didn't exist in temporary markets they had tried on the fair circuit. Gaining constant feedback from other members helped evolve and improve their products greatly and the coop gained the benefit of Liz and Morgan's years of retail experience at stores and restaurants.

The "big push" was abated by Liz's pregnancy in the fall of '98, shortly after joining the Coop. In the years following her sons birth, Liz found time to become more involved in other aspects of the coop's operations while toting a complacent Granger about on her back. Then "Wyrld Sisters" became "Rough Magic" as Morgan and Liz pursued separate paths.

Fast forward a dozen years or more and we have a still thriving coop and a not-driving-yet-but-at-least-off-her-back Granger. Liz has developed a few new twists to her original jewelry line, including picture earrings featuring her original photos on postage stamp sized square metal blanks, and riveted metal jewelry with moving sprockets and touches of sparkle and wire. She regularly performs with her Morris dancing troupe, knits and felts when she can, enjoys helping produce the "Welcome Yule" show every year (she was artistic director for the production four times, too) and dreams of spending time throwing pots on a wheel. Liz's energy could flow into numerous pathways at any given time, which makes even more remarkable the calmness and humor she possesses that tends to put others at ease. As Liz puts it, "It's been quite a ride!"