

FEATURE

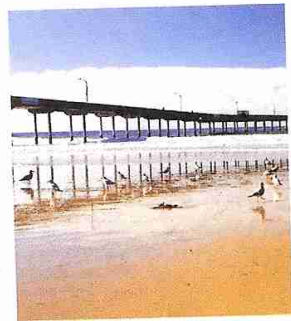
Inspirations

What inspires

Sala Faruq



Using an unusual material Sala creates beautiful jewellery from a fruit of the field. By Kira Withers-Jones



My home in america

MY INSPIRATION

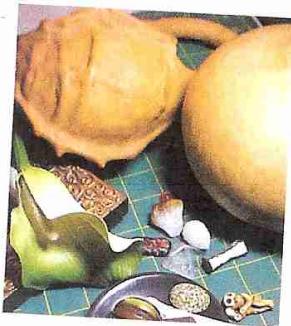
I am a gourd artist and reside in San Diego, California, USA. I create handcrafted fine gourd art, which includes figurative pieces, jewelry and vessels.

When selecting gourds, I look for visual balance no matter what the shape. My design inspirations come from many sources such as a pottery technique, an ancient symbol or a piece of fabric. Sometimes I make small design sketches, but more often than not I take cues from the medium. The gourds speak to me and then my heart tells my hands what to do.

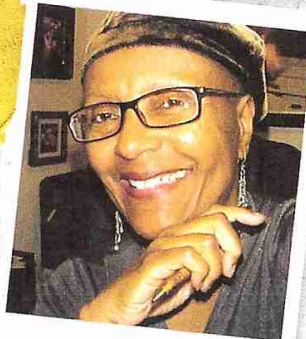
My primary goal in creating gourd art is to capture the essence of the medium and transform it into elegant works of art. Additionally, I am challenged to create works that go beyond the traditional confines of what gourd art is.



Gourds drying in a field



The outer textures



Sala Faruq



My basic tools

MARANKA GOURD BRACELET

With the featured bracelet, Ahmadu, I took my inspiration from the Maranka gourd, which is characterized by a vein-like outer texture. Once I selected the gourd that spoke to me, the first step to creating the bracelet was to clean the gourd. Then I cut the top and bottom off and removed the seeds and dried pulp ball. Next, I thoroughly sanded the edges and inside the gourd until they were smooth. I painted the inside and outside using acrylic paint. Finally, I covered the inside of the bracelet with metal leaf and sealed the entire bracelet with a polycrylic sealant.



Ahadu bracelet

More of Sala's work can be seen at: www.salafaruq.com
 FLICKR: www.flickr.com/photos/salafaruq
 ETSY: www.salafaruq.etsy.com

WHAT IGNITED MY PASSION

Over the years, I have tried drawing, painting, screen printing and etching, but nothing excites me as much as creating art with gourds. I affirmed my love of gourd crafting in 2003 and have been producing gourd creations ever since. I designed figurative pieces and vessels initially. In 2006, I started working on a line of distinctive gourd jewelry after being captivated by the book '1000 Rings: Inspiring Adornments for the Hand'.