

Karen Maxine Kryzan

Biography

Karen Kryzan is a multimedia artist, and a 2016 graduate of the Alberta University of Art, (formerly ACAD), Calgary. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts with distinction, with a major in Jewellery + Metals, and has a deep passion for jewellery design and construction. She is also well versed in painting, drawing, printmaking, and sculpture.

Kryzan is an entrepreneur. Since 1999, she has worked with children as an Arts Educator. For over ten years, she taught clay sculpture in Calgary schools; enriching curriculum for playschool and elementary students. For 3 years, she taught art to playschool and elementary students at a private school. Since 2011, Karen has offered a variety of art units (such as drawing, sculpture, painting, and printmaking) to homeschooled students, ranging in age from 6 to 16. Since graduating, Karen has sold her unique contemporary and Canadiana jewellery designs at local craft fairs and through commissioned sales.

Growing up on a farm nurtured both Kryzan's imagination and her entrepreneurial spirit. Her rich education in agriculture, livestock and the food growing provided much more than knowledge of caring for animals, operating farm machinery, gardening, harvesting, and preserving. She developed skills such as teamwork, cooperation, and self sufficiency. She also developed a curiosity about the world around her. These formative years nurtured an interest in folk lore, storytelling, and history. Kryzan's Metis-Scottish and European ancestry still provides inspiration for many of her designs. It was also during this time that Kryzan was introduced to the world of the arts and fine craft, through sewing, carding wool, making wool quilts, and learning to play musical instruments (flute, clarinet, and saxophone). To this day, Kryzan remains a "life-long learner." Her additional passions include reading, history, fitness, naturopathy, gardening and travel.

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