



## • CRAFT/PROFESSION

Catherine THOMAS is a jewellery designer who crafts her unique designs entirely by hand. Keenly aware of environmental concerns, she creates necklaces, bracelets and earrings using recycled materials such as rubber from inner tubes, aluminium from cans, plastic packaging... “My approach is to create articles in a way which respects people and their environment” she explains.



Once she has recovered, cleaned and treated her materials, Catherine works through a prototyping phase before making her jewellery by hand. Her brand tagline is “Ckoasa’ transforms forgotten materials into unforgettable jewellery”. It’s all about creatively recycling materials to endow them with value and give them new life.



## • BACKGROUND

Crafts and design have always played a key role in Catherine's life. With a high school diploma in layout and design (wood design, industrial design and art history), she got her first job in an art gallery where she learned about framing pictures and curating exhibitions. After that, she and her husband set up a design business specialising in point-of-sale advertising. Catherine gained experience of a range of materials and assembly techniques in the workshop.



On arriving in New Caledonia in 2008, she organised “recycling workshops” to raise people's awareness of the environment. “I was inspired by first-hand experience of the materials; my friends and family encouraged me and I set to work on my first jewellery designs”. 2015 saw the launch of a collection created from cans and inner tubes. Catherine is keen to share her expertise, exchange ideas and work on designs with Melanesian artists. She would like to see a merging of skills and know-how to create new cultural and creative perspectives.

## • INSPIRATIONS AND ART/DESIGNS

“I love matching black with aluminum” says Catherine. Her jewellery is austere and geometric, light and easy to wear, inspired by nature, art and human beings. Her designs are made for “Adventurous, Independent Women”.

Tuning into other people, marvelling at nature and listening to music while she works: the perfect mix for creating her “Ckoasa” designs.