



IRIATAI



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• CRAFT/PROFESSION

Benjamin MEAUME uses white clay to create unusual and imaginative jewellery designed to appeal to both men and women.

He describes his work as pottery “in miniature”. *“I create moulds to imprint designs in little balls of clay and then I fire the pieces at high temperatures”*. Once his designs have been fired, Benjamin engraves and sands them to perfection. *“I use colour and a coat of varnish to give them the finish I want. Then I glue the clay design on or into a metal alloy backing or surround”* he explains.

• BACKGROUND

Benjamin comes from an artistic family and has followed in his mother’s footsteps; she too is a jewellery designer and her son learned his jewellery-making skills from her. A trade secret lies at the heart of Benjamin’s designs. *“It took me a few years to find the magic recipe needed to transform my ‘balls of clay’ into pieces of finished jewellery”* he explains. But the time was well spent!

• INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS

“Inspiration Nature” jewellery is distinctive and original. Clay often plays a role in skin care products or pottery but very rarely in jewellery-making.

Benjamin uses copper and zinc alloy settings or surrounds (containing no lead or nickel) to set off his engraved clay designs, creating medallions, bracelets and earrings. Natural pigments enhance his designs with subtle colours and tints and he embellishes some pieces with freshwater pearls, creating jewellery with a personal touch guaranteed to appeal to his customers. He draws his inspiration from his experiences in the countries he visits on his travels.