



# L'ATELIER DE VAL

- **CRAFT/PROFESSION**

Valérie QUIVIGER designs jewellery made from natural seeds. Environmental awareness is key for her and she uses whatever nature bestows on her. She handcrafts each and every design in her studio nestled deep in the Waihenë forest in Lifou.



Valérie is particularly fond of vegetable ivory (seeds from the South American palm), a material which gives her the freedom to play with myriad colours and shapes. She mixes and matches natural materials collected by the sea or in the forest or bought from mothers from neighboring tribes.



Seashells, seeds and pencil urchins are transformed into easy-to-wear, versatile jewellery everyone can afford. Valérie is committed to “giving new life to everything nature offers us”.

- **BACKGROUND**

Valérie studied architecture in France and then spent time in Colombia with her aunt, who taught her how to create seed jewellery. Sharing and creating things with her aunt

brought her such joy, she was inspired to make it her craft. She was fascinated by vegetable ivory, “I mixed natural seeds with this amazing material which never ceases to inspire me” explains Valérie.

In 2009, she set up as a professional designer and established “L’Atelier de Val”. Ever since, she has shown her work at New Caledonia’s fairs and trade shows and, in 2010, exhibited her jewellery at the Paris Fair.

- **INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS**

Valérie draws her inspiration from the natural world and from her travels. She designs jewellery for everyday wear: necklaces, bracelets, anklets, hair braids... and also keyrings, decorative items and hanging mobiles and ornaments.

“Nature is the source of all the beauty in the world” she explains. Valérie does not use so-called “precious” materials in her designs because, in her opinion, “it’s the dedication you put into creating a piece which makes it precious”.

