

KHAMES JEWELERS

THE ART OF CRAFTING MEMORIES

There is something magical about extracting precious metal from rock, by way of fire, and in the alchemy that turns gold and gemstones into sparkling objects of desire. Once ancient artisans refined their metalwork, they used their skills to create decorative objects of emotional value which were of vital importance to their societies: tokens for ritual, remembrance and celebratory personal adornment.



Not much has changed in our day, as the traditional gifting of pieces of jewelry is a timeless means to commemorate holidays and important life events. Regardless of price, these pieces only gain in value as they pass from one generation to another.

No one feels this sense of history more than Khames Tawfik, a fifth generation Master Goldsmith and artist from Cairo, Egypt, who learned to design and craft jewelry by watching his father and older brothers. Khames elaborates, "When I was about nine or ten years-old, I developed a strong desire to learn the craft. I discovered I had a gift not only for mastering tools and techniques, but for designing original work, and finding inspiration in the world around me. It's in my blood."

For over 15 years, his creativity and meticulous attention to detail made him something of a legend as a Master Goldsmith with Long's Jewelers. Following his muse, he worked behind the scenes doing custom design and repair work for Fink's, Reeds, David Nygaard, Kane Marie and Facets. Khames developed quite a following, and now, he's celebrating his third holiday season at the shop he owns in the Great Neck Village Shopping Center.

Custom design work is the heart of Khames Jewelers. "I love meeting with clients, listening to their stories so that I can create a one-of-a-kind work of art for them or for a loved one. I take into account the emotional impact a custom piece needs to have, so I can strike just the right note. Often a client will bring in a stone or family artifact that they'll want to integrate into the work."

Khames continues, "For a recent customer, I took individual gold pieces she entrusted to me, and fashioned a lovely, hammered cuff bracelet. I've also created custom memorial works for the Navy SEALs, incorporating their medals. It's a very moving experience...a solemn undertaking, but one that I cherish. No design is too challenging, and the combination of skill and experience gives me the confidence to work with the most delicate material."

Khames translates elements of both the natural and man-made worlds into designs that are intuitive, sculptural, and timeless: a lovely white gold necklace, and ring inspired by architecture, are reminiscent of shooting stars, and Khames has created his signature *Sunset*, and *Moon Kiss* pendants, sleek, abstract takes on the intimate moments of dusk and dawn, crafted from delicate gemstones and slim bars of 18K Italian, or white gold.

Though the majority of his designs are suitable for everyday wear, many of the pieces are complementary, the rings, pendants and earrings forming elegant, lightly-themed ensembles just perfect for special occasions. He carries a broad range of cultured, South Seas, Japanese Akoya, and black Tahitian pearls, and maintains a nice selection of pre-owned Rolex® watches. Cleaning filigreed heirloom jewelry, casting replacement pieces, re-stringing pearls, or working with softer gems is no problem. "I love taking on the jobs other jewelers won't touch," Khames says.

Khames Jewelers also buys gold, provides expert, on-site appraisal services, custom gift wrap, and swift turnaround on all



repair work. The shop is warm, and inviting, the perfect backdrop for the congenial personal style of his wife Casey, who is the shop's manager. She delights in providing the kind of personalized service that's missing from much of today's generic shopping experiences. She reflects, "We love the autonomy of having a family-owned business; every transaction carries our personal touch. We like to think of this shop as an extension of our home, and we want our clients to feel comfortable and well looked after."

Khames agrees, "And I love seeing the smile that comes over a client's face when they respond to one of my designs...a work that truly reflects the sentiment behind their special occasion."

Starting December 1st, Khames Jewelers will extend their holiday hours: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Saturday, and Sunday Noon to 5:00 pm

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