



body panned their own gold in Alaska" and brought it to her, "you really have to let go [of eco-consciousness] with the metal."

For the past five years, Miché Meizner-Onoclea of Sumiche Jewelry has been telling clients the opposite. "We're using both 100 percent recycled [metals] and sustainably-mined materials that we're importing from Colombia," says Meizner-Onoclea. What, exactly, is sustainable mining all about? "It's called artisanal mining," says Meizner-Onoclea. Operations are small scale and miners must replant foliage, not use toxic chemicals and reduce silt flowing into waterways, and ecosystems must not be destroyed "beyond a possibility of recovery," says the Corporación Oro Verde website, where Meizner-Onoclea sources her mined metals. The incentive for workers is that they earn 10 percent over the market value for their precious metals, thereby making them some of the better paid workers in the region. For Meizner-Onoclea, providing greener options to clients has been a major boon. "My business has nearly doubled in the several years since we started a sustainable, free-trade line of jewelry," she says, and she is now regularly booked two to three months out.

As for craft, local ringmakers either use the lost-wax casting method or, in Jackson's case, hand-fabricate from sheets and wires. If you're a no-frills type of person, perhaps a wedding ring with just a few simple engravings will do the trick. "I think the idea of carving into a solid band is a good symbol of marriage and the unending, unbroken ring," says Nolan. "It's a beautiful thing."

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