



A moonstone pendant created by Luisa Mack.

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design. She relocated to the Pacific Northwest after marrying her husband, Hannes Mack.

Mack opened her studio-gallery in October 2018. Having her gallery double as her studio gives an added feeling of personality to her collections.

“I think when people go into her gallery and see her tools and workspace when people experience that and see the owner and she makes her pieces, it works well,” Hannes Mack said.

A wave of inspiration

A few years ago, Mack crafted a collection titled “Living by the Sea,” which was composed of pieces with flowing, wave-like patterns mimicking ocean waves. Each piece was inspired by her life living so close to the ocean.

“It’s kind of funny now, ever since I made that series of work, the waviness in my pieces is something that is so part of my design language now that I don’t even really think about it,” Mack said.

Many of Mack’s pieces also incorporate a unique ingredient: gold dust mined from the beaches at Cape Disappointment.

Though the process of collecting the gold takes time and patience — and often hours of sifting through dirt and finding nothing — the payoff of finding enough gold to melt

and work with yields stunning results. By fusing gold to silver pieces, Mack creates wearable pieces of coastal-inspired art that include physical pieces of the coast.

“The fused gold makes a really cool texture. When someone comes to Ilwaco and they’re able to take local gold home, that was designed and handmade by Luisa, it’s a great idea,” Hannes Mack said.

Gold mining in Cape Disappointment can be extremely hit and miss, sometimes requiring the couple to stay on the beach late into the evening, but her husband finds the process worth it when they’re able to find enough gold dust to work into one of Mack’s pieces.

Another aspect of watching Mack’s work that her husband enjoys is seeing her sketching, which helps her brainstorm and think through pieces before she begins crafting them.

“I love her drawings. She does sketches where she designs pieces on paper before it goes onto metal and I’m always so proud of that,” he said. “When you see how she just makes this stuff up and gets it on paper, I think it is really cool.”

Though many of her pieces are one-of-a-kind, Mack enjoys making custom pieces and re-making styles that are popular, which is especially true of her earrings.

Her favorite piece of jewelry to make is silver rings, which are often made as custom pieces, to ensure they fit customers perfectly.



A pair of rings created by Luisa Mack.