

Skin & Soul

JEWELRY

MARTINE HERMANS FRISVOLD



MY STORY

Originally from Antwerp, I spent two years in Beijing, followed by a year in Florence, where I mastered the "**Arte Orafo**" at the Accademia Raymond Riachi and also created and apprenticed in the workshop of the goldsmith **Brandimarte**. The urge to continually broaden my horizons then led me to explore Washington D.C. where I combined studies of gemology -"**Certificate of Practical Gemology**" at the Columbia School of Gemology with work in a jewelry boutique.

Married in 1991 to Paal Frisvold, a Norwegian, I then lived for 4 years in Paris creating in my charming "workshop" near the Panthéon. I participated in several jewelry fairs such as "**Bijorhca**" and "**The World Gold Council**", and sold my collection to the world-famous **Harrods** department store in London.

In 1995, my first little girl, Zoe, was born. My next destination was Oslo where, in 1996, I gave birth to a second girl, Ruby, named after my favorite stone.

After settling down in Brussels in 1997, I decided to perfect my skills and returned to school at "**Les Arts et Métiers**" where I graduated with a 4 year degree in "**joaillerie**".

EARLY INSPIRATIONS

"Jewelry-as-spirit, jewelry-as-soul, jewelry-as-centre"

"Jewelry, the sublimation of matter that speaks through the body to create a tender collusion"

My early creations were directly linked to the techniques I learnt and resulted in concrete forms such as flowers, keys. Later, using wax modeling techniques I had apprenticed, I explored abstract forms and cleaner lines.

Enriched with these years of learning and creation, my creativity expanded and my artistic approach became tightly linked to metallurgy methods. My jewelry became more structured, more nuanced. I constructed architectonic shapes in brushed and/or polished silver, with forms sliding to fit within each other in a 'double entendre' game as illustrated in my "Double Rings" collection. These fit and slide into each other, can be a "Duo Ring" or a "Single Ring". Amusing, intriguing ... they symbolize union, separation, reunion... communion.

In 2003, I created a new 'trend' based on the concept of skin prints, and christened my new collection:
"SKIN & SOUL"

THE CONCEPT : SKIN & SOUL

Its story begins 15 years ago, when the enveloping and evolving shapes of my first pregnancy inspired me to make a mold of my growing tummy. This extended belly button seemed so strange that I wanted to immortalize it... and this was the début of my umbilical and bodily pilgrimage. I wanted to fix them, immortalize them in metal, suspend them around my neck, or around others'. This gave me a profound notion of the sharing of a common being.

"Metal is the "epidermis", the skin as witness to our existence and our communion with Nature."

"The jewel on which I pose skin prints, a belly button print, a nipple print or lines from the hand... this is the body, the corporeal, murmuring to us through the jewel."

In parallel, I created a “VEGETAL” collection, to remind us of that common inspirational source tying us together: THE EARTH. Composed of unique pieces, it includes earrings, bracelets, and long necklaces that enrobe elements of Nature such as tree seeds, in yellow or rose gold, and are embellished with semi-precious stones, glass, bits of wood, or bark...

THE PROCEDURE for SKIN and SOUL

The principal is to reproduce prints of the skin on circular surfaces (rings) in 3D (pearls –rings) or flat surfaces (nipples, belly buttons, palm-lines, finger prints). This is done either through digital photography of the skin, which is then re-worked using a specialized computer software that scrupulously reproduces a copy of the imprint in wax; or through the use of plaster of paris, silicone, or sand posed directly on the surface to be reproduced. The wax goes to a special metal workshop where it is transformed into gold, silver or bronze. This technique individualizes and personalizes the jewel.

THE NEW GALLERY

In October 2010, I opened my new workshop and gallery “SKIN & SOUL” at 121 rue Faider.

I spend many happy hours there, creating or demonstrating my techniques to customers, taking orders and selling my jewelry.

THE COLLECTION: BODY JEWELRY

- Perles de Peau – SKIN PEARLS
- Alliances – WEDDING RINGS
- Bagues de Peau – SKIN RINGS
- Chevalières – FAMILY RINGS
- Impressions digitales – finger prints
- Pendants - PENDANTS

- Sautoirs – LONG NECKLACES
- Nombriils – BELLY BUTTONS
- Tétons – NIPPLES
- Lignes de main – PALM PRINTS
- Cicatrices - SCARS

EXHIBITIONS

I have held several collective and individual exhibitions in Luxembourg and Brussels including at the Gallery “t kint de Rodenbeek” at the Sablon; the ‘White Hotel’ (avenue Louise); a combined show with Scandinavian vintage jeweler Ana Banos Bajo, and held the ‘Corner’ at the Hotel Bristol Stéphanie (avenue Louise) for three years. I also organized a “holiday season” event grouping my latest designs with those of Agathe Saint-Giron, who works with glass. I also participated twice in two festivals at Woluwé Saint-Lambert. I held an exhibition at the “EM72” Gallery on Place Châtelain, in June 2009. In 2011, January I had a presentation of my concept at the gallery “libertine” rue Ernest Allard during which I offer the possibility to take moulds of customers' bodies in order to create a personal piece of jewelry for a St-Valentine's gift. The gallery 'Libertine ' taking part in the “BRUNEAF”, Winter Sablon exhibits from 19-23 january 2011 some of my Body jewelries.



PHOTOGRAPHIE Studio Chérol

WWW.MARTINEHERMANS-FRISVOLD.BE

(for photos and additional information)

GALERIE "SKIN & SOUL JEWELRY"

121, RUE FAIDER

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Opening Hours : Wednesday to Saturday from 11.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.

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