

Sterling Silver
Sunset
Earrings,
\$109



A unique styling touch

BY NICOLE L. GILL - COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Q: Your designs are bold. What inspires them?

A: It could be from architecture I have seen on one of my trips. Following color trends as much as I can and working them in harmony with the materials I work with. I love wearing an accessory that will call attention the minute I walk in a room. It gives me confidence and sometimes it even breaks the ice to a nice conversation.

Q: What is your personal inspiration?

A: My native Peruvian culture — mixing it with the latest fashionable trends. I also travel a lot and find inspiration in, or see pieces in, architecture from other countries. I also love going to SoHo, to explore it ... there is always something inspiring there.

Q: What is your design process?

A: I draw it before a piece is made. And in the process, the final piece has changed a bit from the original design. Working with metal gives you so much freedom to twist, bend and do many different shapes and designs.

Q: What type of jewelry is your favorite to create?

A: A pendant, because it is so unique. It is one piece that you could use as part of a necklace or as a charm in a bracelet. It is very versatile.

Q: You are passionate about giving back to the community. Why is that?

A: Because all I saw since I was little was



Evelyn Brooks, a native of Peru, grew up around jewelry since her father was in the jewelry business. Her jewelry for men and women can be found in many boutiques in the Washington, D.C., area. Visit: www.ebrooksdesigns.com.

PHOTO BY RUI BARROS

Stretchy Hand-Braided Sterling Silver Exotic Onyx Flower Bracelet, \$209 (The onyx stone helps release negative emotions and brings happiness.)



"I consider myself fortunate to have my family & friends supporting me in this journey. We look forward to continue growing our business and creating job opportunities, too. Most importantly give Thanks to GOD!"

my father helping so many people economically and socially. ... He and my mom also did social work together before they got married. It runs in the family.

Q: You recently participated in a jewelry challenge with students from West Potomac Academy. Are there other collaborations on the horizon?

A: YES, indeed. There might be collaborations with the Green Cup Polo in 2010, The DC Fashion Foundation of the Greater Washington Fashion Chamber of Commerce and Empowered Women Intl.

Sterling Silver Exotic Rain Necklace, \$149



Q: How is business at Evelyn Brooks Designs?

A: It is tough. It is a time to be creative to stay in business, and we look positive in the years to come. Our sales were affected, but we took the time of the recession to nurture our former clients, develop strong and new strategic partners, as well as teaching and giving consulting services and presentations.

Q: What jewelry trends do you see for 2010?

A: Lots of red colors, softer and pastel colors during the summer of 2010 like the guava, geranium, ginger, cantaloupe colors.

Q: What's next for you and Evelyn Brooks Designs?

A: For me, I look forward to giving a little sister to my baby boy Tyler, so keep your fingers crossed. For Evelyn Brooks Designs, we are working to have representation in the main cities of the United States. I will be teaching a Jewelry Designs course for Spanish speakers during February and March 2010 at Montgomery College. The baby line is coming in March 2010 and we are in conversations to create an exclusive jewelry line for a celebrity. ■