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festivals,



Q&A



BETSY GRIBBLE

With her partner Wendy Walden, Guilford's Betsy Gribble has created a line of contemporary jewelry, Investment Design, composed of nostalgic found objects of all kinds, from antique buttons and subway tokens to Scrabble game tiles. Winners of the first People's Choice Award at the Guilford Art Center's Craft Expo 2005, they'll be back on the Guilford Green for this year's event July 13-15.

Where do you find the elements for your creations?

There are people all across the country who find things for us. A man in the Midwest, who collects Bakelite dice of all sizes, calls us when he thinks he has something we want. We work with button dealers through the Connecticut Button Society. One time we did a show at Lincoln Center and another woman artist brought us a typewriter. That was the beginning of our making jewelry with typewriter keys.

Which item is the most fun to make?

Actually, everything. We think of our jewelry the same way customers do—it's fun and brings back a lot of memories. Other artisans make jewelry from the same elements, but our pieces all have a unique twist.

What new pieces will visitors see this year?

A great necklace called Park Place, which dangles all the charms from Monopoly and Clue. And we just started making a bracelet that's buttons sewn on top of buttons, then on top of those are Monopoly pieces, typewriter keys and bus tokens. It's called '40s Cuff, because all the pieces come from the 1940s.

For more info on the Guilford Art Center's Craft Expo '06, call [203] 453-5947 or visit handcraftcenter.org.