

Karla B. Proud

Overview of Business History

Karla Proud has been involved directly in the mining of gemstones, cutting of gems and design of fine jewelry. For over 35 years she has directed retail fine jewelry operations in California and Hawaii and is currently promoting the Oregon State Gemstone, Sunstone, in the US and abroad.



Education

1968 Fallbrook Union High School

1969 Palomar Junior College, Calif.

Awards

Over 20 jewelry design awards from the Hawaii Jeweler's Association as well as the American Gem Trade Association.

Work Experience

1968 to 1978 Owner and director of Pala International and The Collector Fine Jewelry stores in Fallbrook, La Jolla and Beverly Hills California. Partner in the Tourmaline Queen and Stewart Lithia mining operations. Traveled extensively in Africa and Europe selling gems and minerals as well as developing overseas markets for American gemstones.

1980 to 2004 Owner and President of R & K Associates and The Rainbow Collection in Honolulu Hawaii. The store was located in the Ala Moana Shopping Center and featured gems, minerals and custom jewelry design.

1985 to 2004 Owner and President of R & K Assoc. jewelry manufacturing business in Hawaii. The jewelry mfg. workshop produced fine finished colored gemstone jewelry for the Rainbow Collector stores, Bijoux Soleil in Tokyo Japan and various wholesale clients including Nordstrom's Fine Jewelry Salon.

2005 to Present Manager of Exotic Gemstones LLC located in Bend, Oregon. Involved directly with the Dust Devil Sunstone mine. Responsibilities include the grading and direction of cutting of the sunstones, design and mfg. of fine jewelry and creating wholesale markets for the product.