

Botanical arts feature jewelry that fools the eye

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Botanical arts pieces must be made entirely from organic elements, although they may be treated with color or other procedures. Award-winning botanical-arts artisan Sarah Boynton of Hingham, Massachusetts, finds her raw materials just about everywhere she goes.

"I'm gathering materials all the time," she said. "Hiking with my dog, I might see a cool mushroom and gather it. You start looking at things, at the details — the dogwood flowers, for instance, that have a tiny piece of something I could use for jewelry or pokeweed for spacers. It's an ongoing project."

Boynton's unusual work is highlighted this year at the Newport Flower Show in a special exhibit in Rosecliff's large dining room. She is a World Flower Show winner several times over, with numerous Artisan and Best of Show awards, as well as several first-place awards from previous Newport Flower Shows.

It was the 2011 Newport Flower Show that jump-started her botanical arts career; since then she's created 30 pieces for competitions.

She also lectures on gardening, flower shows and arranging, and loves all areas equally. In the botanical arts, she said: "Part of the thing I love is doing research on the pieces. For example, if it's a Victorian charm bracelet, I see what was popular then and what stones were used. I love the challenge of design, asking myself, 'What can I use that can create this shape or effect?' and finding the botanical material to create it."

More of her work can be seen on her website, sarahboynton.net.