

Ezri Kahless

Artist Statement

I am a multidisciplinary artist with my primary focus being in metalsmithing which is driven by my lifelong passion for rocks, crystals, and gemstones. For decades, I've explored the country rockhounding—digging into the earth, finding buried treasures, and cultivating a deep reverence for the natural world. That journey led me to go back to college to learn the art of forging metal.

Since starting college my creative journey has expanded far beyond metalsmithing. I've studied bookbinding, papermaking, ceramics, woodworking, 2D and 3D design, painting, and drawing. While some might see this as a “jack of all trades” path, I see it as a privilege. I am able to gather knowledge across disciplines and apply it to my practice which is rooted in curiosity, craftsmanship, and purpose.

My process is intuitive and experimental. I rarely begin with a rigid plan—instead, I allow myself to “play” with form and let the metal guide me. Inspiration often arrives during meditation, when I turn off distractions and allow my mind to wander. This practice helps me break through creative blocks and discover unexpected solutions. My most successful pieces emerge from this organic approach, where the final form is shaped as much by the process as by my initial vision.

Second, only to my love of nature is my love of science fiction and fantasy. These genres have shaped my worldview, especially the ideals expressed in *Star Trek*. That series, with its iconic communicator badge, a simple brooch that became a symbol of unity, exploration, and hope, profoundly influenced my beliefs. I strive to create jewelry that carries that same weight: objects that are not only beautiful and functional, but also symbolic and transformative.

My materials reflect my values. I use recycled metals whenever possible, hand-dug stones I've collected myself, and found objects that others might overlook. I believe in creating from what already exists in order to honor the earth while reimagining its offerings. Each piece I make is designed to focus on sustainability, and social impact.

Ultimately, my goal is to use my jewelry business to help launch a nonprofit dedicated to building self-sustaining communities and ending homelessness. Guided by the *Star Trek* principle, “The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one,” I want my work to inspire action, not just admiration. I want it to spark conversations that challenge assumptions. Then use the profits to build communities that demonstrate a world where every person and every story matters. Will you join me on this journey?