

Glitter & gold at **SAVAGE & SONS**

You'll find Mother's Day gifts fit for a queen at Kaye Browning's exclusive jewelry shop. By Sharon Doddroe.

Window shopping on Old Bond Street in London, England, is always a treat—the jewels at Cartier, Tiffany & Co. and De Beers gleaming through antique windowpanes as they sit nestled in comfy velvet boxes, the allure is undeniable. But for Kaye Browning, the attraction was more than merely

wanting to own the precious items behind the glass. She wanted to experience 18th century England.

"Whenever I walked through the Mayfair area of London and visited the shops, my mind transported me back to Georgian times in England. I imagined myself living during that period," explains

Browning. "I loved the old elegant Georgian period jewelry shops and drooled over each and every piece displayed in the windows. I knew the only way I could possibly have it all was to have it in miniature!"

"I loved the old elegant Georgian period jewelry shops and drooled over each and every piece displayed in the windows. I knew the only way I could possibly have it all was to have it in miniature!"

She was also certain who she would ask to design it: internationally acclaimed designers Kevin Mulvany and Susie Rogers, British artisans who specialize in creating historically significant archi-

Left: Kevin Mulvany and Susie Rogers based their shop design on an existing Georgian shop.



itecture and interiors. The duo has an impressive list of work which includes miniatures of Hampton Court, Versailles, Buckingham Palace and Fontainebleau to name a few. There's also Spencer House, the ancestral home of Princess Diana, displayed in the Kathleen Savage Browning Miniatures Collection at the Kentucky Gateway Museum.

While the jewelry shop would be small in comparison to those projects, Mulvany and Rogers applied the same research and technical precision, as well as a few personal touches along the way. They

knew Browning had ancestral ties to York, England, so they based their design on an existing Georgian shop there.

"We worked from drawings, plans and photos taken from a 1960's book printed by Her Majesty's Stationery Office found in an antiquarian bookshop," says Rogers. They also wanted to pay tribute to Browning's heritage. Thomas Savage was the Archbishop of York from 1501 until his death in 1507. "We discussed the overall design and layout with Mrs. Browning, but we surprised her with the shop's name—Savage and Sons."

To achieve the rich Georgian-era feel, Mulvany and Rogers handcrafted limewood and birch for the structure's exterior and used mahogany for the interior before adding the realistic finishes for which they are so well known. "The soft sheen of the exterior paint finish replicates the effect of the highly-leaded paints of the 18th century," explains Rogers. "The interior cabinetry is a semi-matt ivory parchment color exactly matched to

Below: Lori Ann Potts created much of the jewelry in the shop. Pieces by Lynn O'Shaughnessy and Andrew Chambers are also featured.





The miniature bracelets are some of Kaye Browning's favorite pieces. Notice the tiny business cards and shop bags.

library bookcases in the Long Gallery at Syon House (the London home of the Duke of Northumberland)."

The project, which took more than 600 hours to complete, included making the internal fittings and the shop sign—both hand gilded in 23.5 carat gold leaf. The window panes were individually cut and fixed fine antique glass panes. Other details pay tribute to the "Age of Aristocracy" in England.

"The cornice is a typical classical 18th century profile used especially in grand rooms or ground floor rooms. The shop counter again is a period piece. In exclusive establishments there was no need for money to be exchanged as customers had accounts and so the large surface was used to show goods to the customer, who quite often would be seated, and to note commissions and special orders. The goods would then be taken away for wrapping and delivery," explains Rogers.

The Goods

In the case of Savage & Sons, the goods are tiny recreations of some of the finest jewelry made at the time—and perhaps some of the finest jewelry in miniature on display today. The majority of the pieces were created by Lori Ann Potts from the Canadian province of British Columbia.

"There are over 200 indi-



vidual pieces of jewelry in the shop, covering everything imaginable from rings, broaches, chains and pearls to diamond earrings and brace-

Above: The exquisite jewelry showcased in this elegant miniature jewelry shop display was made with precision to replicate some of the finest jewelry that was made in the eighteenth century.



Above and right: Diamonds, rubies, emeralds, pearls, opals, sapphires and amethysts are among the jewels featured in the Savage & Sons jewelry shop in the KSB Miniatures Collection.

lets,” says Potts. “The finished display contains some of the best jewelry work I have done in my career.”

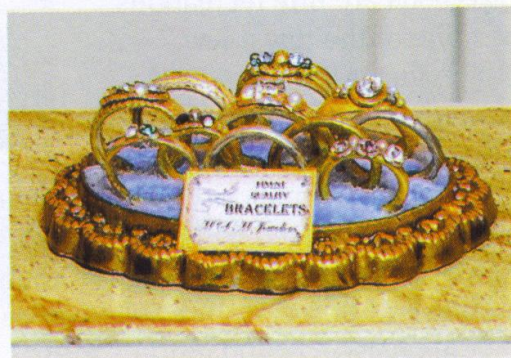
Potts didn’t want to signal out any one piece from the Savage & Sons’ shop, but Browning did try to narrow

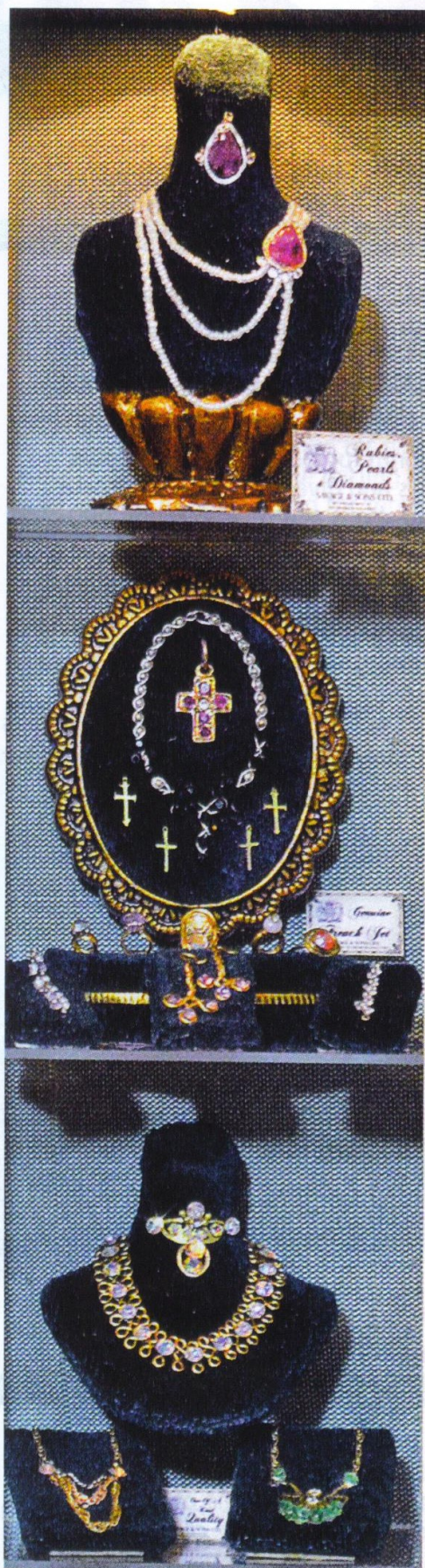
down her favorites. “I love the triple diamond ring. Its stones have 56 facets in each of them and there is a long strand of the tiniest seed pearls knotted in Georgian style . . . a lovely diamond tiara, the ruby and diamond cross and stunning opal bracelets—all set in 14 karat gold . . .” She really did try to choose just a few, finally admitting she adored

every single item. “Lori Ann knows my taste in jewelry, so what she created is exactly what I would have purchased in real scale.”

Potts, who owns Mustard Seed Miniatures, used genuine karat gold, freshwater pearls, gemstones, diamonds and vintage Swarovski crystal rhinestones for her pieces. She had no formal art training until she began making miniatures about three decades ago. Since then she has worked alongside Georgia Matuschak, Brooke Tucker and Larrienne Hilditch, “one of the most important influences of my career and work.”

Potts also seeks out classes in full scale to hone her miniature techniques. Her body of work ranges from food to landscaping, teapots to toys and from kits to finished rooms; but she is particularly well known for clothing, hats, perfumery and jewelry. Stacks of Sotheby and other jewelry estate auction catalogs provide inspiration and authentic-





Left: Look for Mulvany & Roger's newest piece: a French couture shop based on Ralph Lauren in Paris at the Kensington show this month.

ity for Potts. The rest, she says, may be a combination of curiosity and luck.

"When I first started traveling to different shows around the country I was fascinated by the tiny rhinestones and jewels that I found for sale. I had no idea what I would ever use them for but I bought them anyway and stashed them safely away," explains Potts. "If I had known that ten years down the road I would be using these perfectly-scaled components to create jewelry, I would have gathered up so much more than I did at the time."

But that's all in hindsight. She never imagined that someday her work would be featured in collections and museums around the world, either. "I couldn't be more proud of my pieces," says Potts. "The combination of the regal setting by Mulvany & Rogers and the jewelry displays come together in perfect harmony."

Browning hopes everyone who peers into the windows of Savage & Sons will be transported to Georgian-era England like she is when she admires

the piece. Mulvany and Rogers have since had their own mind-transporting experience while visiting in York. They noticed they were shopping in the very establishment they had modeled Savage & Sons after. "Even more coincidentally," says Rogers, "It was a clothes shop belonging to a top UK clothing brand whose owners we had made a [miniature] house for about ten years previously!"

It is a small world, now isn't it? **AM**

GET IN TOUCH

**KSB Miniatures
Collection
Kentucky Gateway
Museum**

Phone: 606-564-5865

Email: browningminiatures@kygmc.org

Website: www.kygmc.org/miniatureexhibits

Website: www.ksbminiaturescollection.com

GET IN TOUCH

Lori Ann Potts

107-2760 Lonsdale Ave.
North Vancouver, BC V7N
3J1, Canada

Phone: (1)-604-984-4053

Email: Mustardseed@uniserve.com

eBay store: <http://stores.ebay.com/Lori-Ann-Potts-Miniature-Arts>