

Shoptalk

Venerari



Who are you? Genevieve Lilley and Kingsley Wallman

What's your story? We own Venerari jewellery store in The Strand Arcade and have been up and running for three years. I have my own architecture firm (Genevieve) and I design our jewellery. Kingsley was a lawyer but is now a trained gemologist – his family have been in the opal business for decades – and he sources all the stones. We'd been in London for the past ten years and when we got back, we realised how Sydney had moved on – modern design was flourishing and we knew it was something we could have an input in.



Tell us something about your jewellery Basically we wanted to reinvent the opal. It's an amazing stone but over the years it's lost its allure and ended up in cheap tourist souvenir baskets. We use stones mined here in Australia as well as other precious stones such as sapphires from Queensland and emeralds from Columbia. Our designs are striking, colourful and flamboyant merging stunning natural stones with modern sets.

And your fan base? We have customers all around the world. As well as passing trade, our work is popular in the UK, Tokyo and the US. Half of the business is made to order, so we have very loyal clients who know we will make an individual piece to the highest standard.

Could we afford you? We try and cover a wide range of prices so our materials range from silver to white gold and stones value vary too. You can find something exquisite for as little as \$250 while our top end designs can reach up to \$12,000.

Where can we find you? Come visit us at the Strand Arcade, 412 George Street in the city.

Venerari (02 9222 9797 www.venerari.com)