

Career Profile: Steven Milonas

Summing up my career in a couple of paragraphs is not always easy but there are the highlights which seem to stand out in ones mind.

Just recently I completed my certificate in gemmology; a task I had been wanting to undertake for a long time and, having been in the jewellery industry twelve years it was time I concreted my passion for gems and jewellery.

I had always taken a keen interest in jewellery as a youngster and having had family members in the industry I attended gem shows from the age of six or seven collecting rocks and crystals, not for their chemical composition but, for a kid of six, just because they looked 'awesome'.

As a keen art student, I honed my talents at high school where I hoped I would study graphic design at university, but instead ended design skills were still good friend in the jewellery knowledge, offered me a job several weeks training from industry, loving every environment that felt just

As time went by consultation and I found myself not only and this is where my At the time the jewellery boutiques across Melbourne caught on to what I was me becoming designer to the

Ten years on my role had and consulting to clients behind the scenes as well as much as I thrived on the

products and companies I was now married and had started a family and my role at the company had really come full circle. I felt it was time to learn about other aspects of the industry and so I accepted employment at the French Jewel Box, a long standing jewellery establishment servicing the antique jewellery sector of the industry, owned and run by Mary Louise Walsh; a leading member of the jewellery community, a gemmologist, registered valuer and specialist in antique and vintage jewellery.

Under her guidance I have learnt an in depth knowledge of how jewellery used to be produced in periods long past, creating for myself a solid basis for understanding the more technical side to designing jewellery.

My role at present is still one of designer but also extends to the care and restoration of existing jewels and that is where my gemmology skills really play a huge part; ie. the diagnosis of treatments of particular gem materials and their authenticity. The role is challenging but equally rewarding. I hear of so many unnecessary 'faux pas' made in the trade and that is why I chose to study gemmology, to refine my knowledge in order to move forward and become more professional in the trade I love.

Ed. Congratulations to Steven on winning the Jewellers Association prize for top trade student.



up studying marketing where my useful. While at college I met a industry who upon seeing my which I eagerly accepted. With superiors I was thrust into the minute and working in a fabulous 'me'.

with clients became more involved selling but designing bespoke items graphics skills played a huge role. house I was employed by had three so when all the other staff members doing that was the launching pad for firm.

become very demanding, designing while designing private collections input in company advertising. As adrenalin of working with amazing