

Vartan Bakalian

WORKS AT:

BB Designer Jewellers

AGE: 32

YEARS IN TRADE: 18

TRAINING: Private tutoring from age 14. Apprenticeship at Design Centre Enmore

FIRST JOB: Hands-on work with master jeweller

Favourite gemstone:

Diamonds and sapphires.

Favourite metal:

Rose gold and the use of a combination of metals.

Favourite tool:

Files. Without file or friction nothing comes to shape.

Best part of job:

Creating new designs and discovering new techniques.

Worst part of job:

Nothing! It's all good – every part of it has its own flavour.

Best tip from a jeweller:

A former employee told me, "Quit, it is too hard an industry." But I think passion strengthens your will.

Best tip to a jeweller:

Be original in everything you do, from design to presentation. Inspiration is just the beginning – don't let it stop there!

Biggest health concern on the bench:

Not enough cardiovascular fitness. The only adrenaline one gets is the satisfaction of delivering the final product.

Love jewellery because:

Jewellery makes people feel special. From a personal perspective, having the skill and opportunity to manufacture jewellery takes me to a happy place.

My bench is always:

Immaculately organised. The environment of one's bench reflects one's work.

