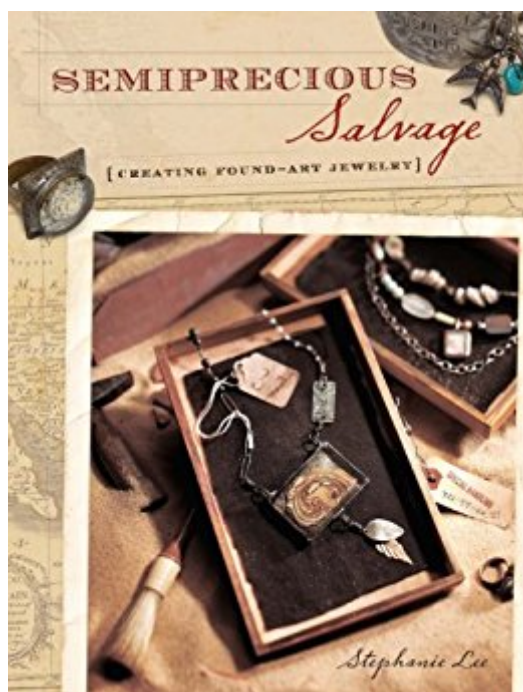


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# Semiprecious Salvage: Creating Found Art Jewelry



## Synopsis

Unearth treasures of the past to create stunning found-object jewelry. Embark on an expeditioner's journey back in time to uncover tattered silk, faceted stones and other forgotten items, and learn how to give them new life as a pendant, ring or brooch. Found objects can be beautiful both for the unique, unexpected look they add to your work and for the stories we imagine them to tell. In the pages of *Semiprecious Salvage*, you will discover the excitement of reclaiming remnants of the past and reinterpreting their beauty in wearable works of mixed-media art. Step-by-step instructions guide you through the basics of wirework and creating basic jewelry findings, then encourage you to don your boots and get digging as you mix and match elements to create one-of-a-kind treasures. You'll learn to:

- Age modern "flashy" objects to create the distressed look of pieces with a past
- Combine jewelry elements with new and vintage fabrics for a soft, romantic touch
- Master the use of a soldering iron and a propane torch in crafting metal jewelry
- Incorporate plaster and resin into your work for added depth and intrigue
- Reinvent your artwork with your own *Semiprecious Salvage* and start sharing the stories of your own found objects today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As I flipped through the pages of this book I was inspired by its beauty from start to finish. Stephanie's projects that may look initially intimidating are easily understood through photos and clear instructions. The layout of the book is very easy on the eyes and the photos are lovely as well. I would not say this is a beginner jewelry book as it requires soldering, etching and epoxy which take some investment in time and money but doesn't all good art? I would encourage brave mixed media artists to try something new by choosing one of the projects in Stephanie's book and see how you might use the processes in your art. Happy reading!

I just checked this book out from the library and love everything about it. I got on here to put it on my wish list and had to write a review. Learning to etch, how to work some cold joins in the metal, and connecting things like silk, leather, and other odd charms and beads--it's all really exciting! There's information on soldering and how to make charms out of different items using the soldering techniques, which I'm trying next. I have experience with finer soldering techniques, but not with the messier ones described in the book, and I'm eager to learn about it. I tried the etching today as described in the book and it worked perfectly. I noticed that brass seems to work better than the copper (I didn't have nickel). I've been finding myself drawn to steampunk jewelry lately, and this book is by far better than the steampunk jewelry book currently on the market as far as the techniques that are taught. Nearly every project in this book, whether you like the finished piece or not, seems to teach some new technique or show some other idea for how to use some common thing in your own work. I'm excited to apply some of this information even to my pieces that look anything but antique. If you like the steampunk look, this is for you. Just add a key or a gear and there you go. ^\_^

Anyone who loves mixed media art jewelry will thoroughly enjoy this book. Foremost, the projects are spectacular. The instructions are clear and concise with excellent photographs. The inspiration alone, is well worth the cost of the book itself! That's because Ms. Lee takes you on a virtual "expedition" with her as she moves from one project to the next. The overall experience of this book is absolutely fabulous!

Be sure to use the "Look Inside" feature when deciding whether to buy this book; if you don't love the projects featured the rest of the book won't have much to offer you. The steps are well photographed and the book is attractively laid out, but not one of the projects appealed to me. As someone who likes to use hardware and found objects in designing jewelry I should have been the

perfect target market. Most of the projects are very rustic, for lack of a better word, and most lack visual appeal -- just my opinion, but I couldn't find much symmetry, rhythm, or flow to many of the finished pieces. The elements sometimes seemed randomly assembled and not always compatible with or complementary to one another. This book would be most useful (if those that like the projects) for people who already have experience in metal and wire work. As another reviewer mentioned, it's sometimes possible to pick up techniques from a book even when you're not crazy about the projects, but in this case the techniques are either so project-specific that it's not easy to generalize from them, or the techniques are not gone into in enough depth that a beginner could fully learn how to do them (soldering, casting with clay, working with resin, for example).

If you are into rustic, funky, and atypical jewelry, you'll love this book! If you prefer dainty and elegant classic styles, probably not so much. I like both, and of the six books I've purchased recently on designing "found object" jewelry, this is by far the best. The materials are varied, and many of the designs can easily be adapted. There is no 'right' way to do these. The techniques are explained clearly, and while I am spending a fortune on supplies, most of them are enough for several projects. The designs are featured in a storyline that isn't really that essential...I could have done without that to leave room for more projects. Yet, I'm not going to knock off a star...it's that good.

This is a great book for ideas on how to do some wonderful found art jewelry. It's most entertaining in spite of the sometimes flaky prose incorporated into a story lesson book. If you like to do out of the ordinary pieces. This book is for you.

The projects are sorted into 2 categories: hot & cold connections - which is perfect - if you're someone like me, who has actually dreamed of losing their hair in a ball of flame at the idea of using a soldering torch. The pictures guiding the reader through the techniques are clear and well-planned. Each project is presented in a relaxed manner, giving the reader confidence to try what had once seemed too daunting, and accepting each imperfection as part of their 'hand-made signature'.

One of hundreds of repurposing books out there. The trend got so wild & crazy that it got too expensive to find the old parts to purchase and make my own projects. Online craft stores were jam-packed with the stuff a year or 2 ago and it was out of this world to try & compete. Still, the book

has good ideas and has become part of my library.

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