

ONE ON ONE

By Vicki Stavig

If you've ever wanted to own a piece of art created by award-winning sculptor Tim Cherry, but your budget might not allow for it, I've got great news for you: You can buy one of his magnificent creations for as little as \$230—and you can wear it!

Yes, you read that correctly. Tim and his wife Linda are creating jewelry that incorporates the whimsical animals he has been portraying on a much larger scale for the past three decades: swans, owls, lions, otters, bears, rabbits, bison, and fish.

"We've been wanting to do jewelry for 20 years," Linda says. "We always thought jewelry and sculpture would be a great combination."

She adds that the seed for their jewelry line—called TLC for Tim and Linda Cherry—was the desire to have Tim's sculpture live on. "Jewelry," she says, "was perfect. We started searching for ways to do it and things started falling into place."

She and Tim, who live in Branson, Missouri, work together on the vision and design of the jewelry. "We sit together, generally in the morning when it's quiet and before we get busy, with a sketchpad and start doodling and noodling and play back and forth and eventually get to a place we feel really good about," Tim says.

Adds Linda, "Sharing ideas is exciting; it's fun. We're having a blast creating together. The collaboration process is fun for us. Tim has such strong design; we're taking those elements and pushing them out."

Tim was born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and grew up in British Columbia. By the time he was 15, he was spending his summers working as an outfitting guide, which piqued his interest in wildlife so much so that he later worked with renowned taxidermist Forest Hart, which eventually led to sculpting. Tim later moved to Loveland, Colorado, where he was the beneficiary of guidance and support from renowned sculptors Dan Ostermiller and Fritz White.

Several years ago, Tim told me that moving to Loveland was the best thing that ever happened to him; the second best was leaving Loveland. Why? He had met Linda in the late '80s, while they both were attending the Southeastern Wildlife Expo in Charleston, South Carolina, and he left Loveland to move to Branson and marry her.

As he continued to sculpt, Cherry found himself favoring free-flowing forms rather than those with more detail—combining smooth and textured surfaces and injecting humor into his creations, which have won many awards over the years.

When I visited with Tim and Linda in late May, they were excited—and admittedly a little nervous—at the prospect of showing some of their jewelry at the Prix de West in June. "I'll have four pieces in the show," Tim told me. "Two of them will be new, and we did two pendants of those two sculptures."

Tim and Linda are concentrating on pendants but plan to expand the line to include earrings, bracelets, jewelry bowls, and jewelry for men.



The current line includes silver and various colors and karats of gold, along with gemstones. They range in price from \$230 to \$4,600 and can be customized for clients. "Everything is based on Tim's art," Linda says.

You can see for yourself why Tim and Linda are so excited about their new venture by visiting www.timcherry.com. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words—and that is more than true in this case. ✦



Simply Swan

Vicki Stavig is editor of *Art of the West*