



GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

With 59 destinations, as well as our codeshare routes, Kenya Airways is taking you to more places than ever before. Global Marketplace brings you the best finds from KQ's network. In this issue **Jackson Biko** talks to Shrutu Patel, founder of **Savannah Chic**, a fair-trade jewellery business using Kenyan Artists.





1 KIKOY BRACELETS (SUMMER LOVE COLLECTION)

These are great for the beach - for those long holidays marked by colour and inactivity. This range of jewellery is handmade in Kenya using kikoy fabric and finished with hand-cast gold-plated caps. Designed by Charu Patel, the gold rings are made by Stanley Mungai, a designer in the Kasarani area of Nairobi, and later assembled by Kennedy Ochieng, an ex-streetchild from Kibera. They come in all colours of the rainbow, perfect for those who want to make a bold statement.

• US\$55

2 CERAMIC POP RING

The designers at Kazuri Ltd ('kazuri' is Swahili for 'small and beautiful') wanted to have some fun and create colourful and playful rings. They chose brass and handmade ceramic beads for these designs. According to Shruti, there is often an unhelpful focus on tribal designs, something she wanted to steer clear of. "Urban youths generally want trendy designs that cut across various lines of definition, not just tribes." And so she commissioned the rings to shout 'happy and 'hippie!'

• US\$25

3 BONE CLUSTER NECKLACE

Almost all the necklaces are made from cow bones, collected from butcheries all round Nairobi and then recycled. Kennedy Ochieng is the man behind recycling these bones. Ochieng dropped out of school at the age of 12, ran away from home and got into heavy glue sniffing, while sleeping in garbage cans in Kibera before being saved from the streets. The necklace is



all about appreciating simple beauty, a minimalist design that can be worn both long and short, ideal for a trendy safari look but also cool enough for an evening outing.

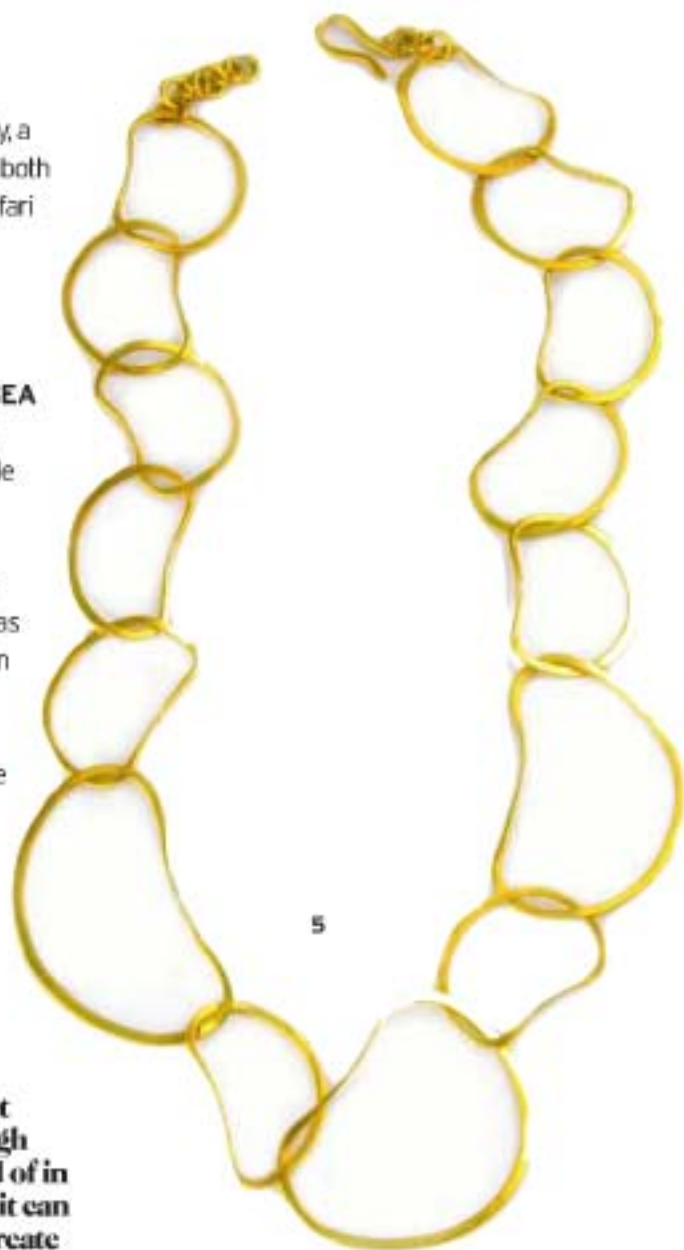
• US\$55

4 ASRA BRACELETS (THE 'SEA MY WORLD' COLLECTION)

These exquisite bracelets are made from regular recycled glass from West Africa. Beads, as you may well know, are the African answer to the charm trend. This design was developed with Stanley Mungai, an artisan who grew up as a street kid and now trains young people in the art of jewellery making. The shimmering matt glass beads come in the colours of the sea - turquoise, light blue or green and go well with that whole faded-denim or playful summer dress look.

• US\$45

Savannah Chic is the product of the realisation that although Africa has plenty to be proud of in terms of artistic inspiration, it can also use that inspiration to create products that straddle the line between African and European - without diluting either's identity.



5 PEBBLES NECKLACE

One of Savannah Chic's bestsellers. Although spiked with glam and sparkle, the necklace remains delicate and lightweight, ready to transform any woman into a sexy gypsy queen. This design is the impressive work of the mentally impaired artisans at the Jacaranda workshop in Nairobi. Jacaranda is an institution that educates children with special mental and physical needs by training them in metalwork and beadmaking. If anything, these necklaces say something that the mentally disabled can't: that depths of creativity lie in the most unlikely quarters.

• US\$75 ▶

All available from savannah-chic.com



Savannah Chic's founder, Shruti Patel

Savannah Chic

Savannah Chic is founded on the tenets of Fair Trade – working for a more equitable system of global commerce. Or in other words, making the consumer aware not only of where products come from, but putting a ‘human face’ to the people who create them, as well as ensuring that the people that create the products are the ones who are rewarded. Although it’s founded on these admirable principles, what actually defines Savannah Chic is the realisation that although Africa has plenty to be proud of in terms of artistic inspiration, it can also use that inspiration to create products that stride the line between African and European – without diluting either’s identity.

Shruti Patel, the founder, started this company in 2008, spurred on by her 10-year stint at various UN and NGO bodies as a development economist. These bodies, she noticed, fail to recognise the value of indigenous wealth clearly displayed in the quality and unique character of artisanal metal and beadwork.

“Years after projects launched, I noticed they didn’t show much change. Primarily because we were teaching people new skills instead of using the skills they already possessed.”

With her mother, Charu Patel, a trained fashion designer, they design the jewellery and commission over 30 Kenyan artists. Their biggest market is Switzerland where, Shruti says, the people are drawn to her designs.

Kenya artists create Afro-inspired Jewellery

