

# SEAGLASSWEAR™ & SEASTONEWEAR™

Jewelry from the sea by valerie gates

## NMH ALUMNI



**Alum of the Month:** Valerie Gates

**Class year:** 1984

**Education:** Brown University, BA, 1988

Life after NMH: Majored in semiotics and art at Brown and took classes at Rhode Island School of Design. Worked in LA as a fashion/entertainment photographer and art director on projects for Motown, A+M Records, New Line Cinema, and as an on-air creative director for CBS and ABC. Became in-house art director for CBS-Boston and won numerous awards, including an Emmy and the CBS Eye-on-Excellence Award. Has photographed famous personalities such as Ronald Reagan, Magic Johnson, and Wayne Gretzky. Teamed up with her art director husband and launched the award-winning Boston marketing and communications design firm, Gates Studio ([www.gatestudio.com](http://www.gatestudio.com)) in 2000. Started designing handmade, one-of-a-kind art jewelry in 2002. Her lines, SeaGlassWear and SeaStoneWear, are carried in over 30 museum shops and galleries nationwide, including the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Art Institute of Chicago. She'll be a featured artist at the Boston MFA store in December.

Career twist: Gates began designing silver-and-sea glass jewelry after her aunt passed away in July 2002 and left her an extensive collection of sea glass.

Fascinating facts: After her husband was asked to be a model in Italy for a men's line of clothing, Gates moved with him to Milan in 1989 and worked as a fashion photographer for Armani.

In her words: "Using sea glass in jewelry is the ultimate in recycling. The ocean takes something that was discarded by man, reshapes it into a really beautiful jewel, and now it's featured in museums and worn by women at elegant parties. It's really an interesting reversal of fortune"

For more information about Valerie Gates' jewelry lines, visit [www.seaglasswear.com](http://www.seaglasswear.com)

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