

style

STYLE STAR KARIN JACOBSON, JEWELRY DESIGNER

Landing a fashion punch



By SARA SAWYER • Special to the Star Tribune

Karin Jacobson's comic book-inspired jewelry design and passion for Thai boxing are the one-two punch informing her shojo chic. "Because of my [petite] size, people were always cute-ing me to death," she admits, "so I wasn't into girlie styles when I was younger." But now she's a self-supporting businesswoman able to spar with guys twice her size who says, "I am comfortable wearing pink."

Her cute-by-choice jeans and graphic tees are perfect for days spent meeting with clients, metalworking at her jewelry bench and teaching at the Minnesota Martial Arts Academy (www.mmaa.com). Shopping sale racks and discount stores keeps her fashion forward without breaking her budget, although temptation does arise.

"Marc Jacobs is my favorite designer," says Jacobson without hesitation. Recalling a knee-length blue trench coat with big round buttons that went perfectly with her oversized blue cocktail ring, she playfully laments, "It was perfect with my jewelry. It was on sale, and I still couldn't afford it."

Karin Jacobson's jewelry is available locally at Lowell Lundeen, the Walker Art Center Gift Shop and at her studio in the Northrup King Building. For more information, visit www.superkarin.com.

personal best

A countdown of Karin Jacobson's favorite things, in her own words:

10. IMAC

Although I don't design jewelry on the computer, I use it every day for accounting and communication. I prefer Macs because I think they are easier to use and don't get viruses. They're the most stylish computers — bar none.

9. PUMA'S CALIFORNIA SNEAKER

The best-looking sneakers I've found. I have several colors.

8. MAC LIP GLOSS IN NYMPHETTE

I often go without makeup, especially if I'm planning to work out, but I never leave the house without some lip gloss.

7. ACTION MOVIES

A strong plot is always appreciated, but not necessary if the martial arts scenes are good.

6. JEANS AND GRAPHIC TEES

Some of my favorite T-shirts include Takashi Murakami graphics, Gama Go and Obey, found at Robot Love, and those by local designer Sean Tubridy (www.blueoverblue.com).

5. NORTHRUP KING BUILDING

It's my haven. I've met a lot of great artists since I moved my studio there.

4. PONYTAIL HOLDERS

Without them, I'd get my hair wrapped up in the machinery or singed off by my torch when metalworking.

3. THAI BOXING

It's a healthy escape that requires too much concentration for me to think about work.

2. BOOKS ON TAPE

Sitting in traffic feels like such a huge waste of time, but it is tons better if I'm learning something and being entertained. I get them at the library.

1. MY JEWELRY

I almost always put on a big, huge (fake) cocktail ring, a matrix cuff bracelet and one of my necklaces — no matter what I'm wearing, I've heard people say, "Oh, I could never wear a big ring like that with blue jeans!" but I say, "Fashion should be fun! If it makes you smile, wear it!"

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All jewelry designed by Jacobson: Sea Creature pink ring, \$125, on right hand; Eclipse pink ring, \$230, also on the right hand; orange Pop ring, \$315, left hand. Brown hoodie sweatshirt, Target; jeans, Sitwell, from Anthropologie, 50th and France, Edina (www.anthropologie.com); boots, Penny Loves Kenny. Her fave stores locally are Opitz Outlet, 4320 Excelsior Blvd., St. Louis Park, 952-922-2435, Banana Republic and Robot Love, 2648 Lyndale Av. S., Mpls., 612-871-9393.