

## ART SPOTLIGHT

# Newport jewelry-maker says no to status, yes to function

By **BILL VAN SICLEN**  
Journal-Bulletin Arts Writer

**The artist:** Leeann Herreid, 28

**What she does:** jewelry-maker

**Where she's been:** Born Concord, Mass. Attended the Rhode Island School of Design. Lives in Newport.

**You are what you wear:** Like Cartier, Tiffany's and other jewelry giants, Herreid makes a full range of rings, bracelets, necklaces and other pieces. But instead of decorating them with fancy jewels or precious stones, she uses working-class materials such as pressure gauges, spirit

levels and surveyor's compasses.

"I call it my 'Functional/Directional' line," she says. "It came from thinking about the history of jewelry and the context in which it's worn. Most people wear jewelry to show off their status and make a statement about who they are. I simply threw out the status part and decided to concentrate on how jewelry responded to the environment."

**Following directions:** In devising one of her most popular creations — a ring topped with a compass — Herreid also responded to more personal concerns. "I wanted

my mother to have something she could wear in the car," she says. "Sometimes she has trouble driving, especially when my father is giving her directions."

**Where she shows:** Herreid's jewelry can be found locally at Oop!, a shop at 297 Thayer St. in Providence that specializes in artist-made crafts and gifts. Her work is also sold through the Brooklyn Art Museum, the New York Public Library and the Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.

*Art Spotlight runs in Lifebeat each Tuesday.*



### THE COMPASS NECKLACE

is one of jewelry-maker Leeann Herreid's most popular pieces.