ASYMMETRIC™ by design

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contact: tonya@asymmetricbydesign.com

**THE FUTURE OF FASHION ISN'T MINED.
IT'S REDESIGNED, AND IT'S BOLD.**

Forgotten treasures, bold convictions.

Global 50 Women in Sustainability honouree Tonya Dickenson makes her Salon des métiers d'art debut with upcycled jewelry that takes a stand.

MONTRÉAL, November 2026 / A Berber silver pendant. A bead of Ghanaian recycled glass. Irregular pearls. Most of the treasures Tonya Dickenson is bringing to the Grand Quai this December are remarkable time capsules, each carrying the trace of an artisan's hand, a tradition, a life. In her Montréal studio, they become necklaces that turn heads, ignite conversations and make a statement.

From December 15 to 20, Asymmetric by Design makes its debut at the 70th Salon des métiers d'art du Québec, at the Grand Quai of the Port of Montréal, with wearable art crafted primarily from antique, vintage and recycled beads. Each piece is named. Each one tells a story. Each one takes a stand for women's rights, peace and the planet. Most are one of a kind, and when a piece is gone, it is gone.

JEWELRY THAT SPEAKS BEFORE YOU DO



Turquoise and antique silver by Asymmetric by Design

"The neck is unique real estate," says Dickenson. "It's rarely used to its full potential, yet a necklace can make a woman stand out and ignite a conversation. In these challenging times, women are proud to take a stand and show what they believe in. They tell me my work makes them feel taller, bolder, more confident and unapologetically themselves."

Together, the collections embody a vision of a better, more inclusive and greener world, and spotlight the defining issues of our time:

- **Shattering the Glass Ceiling:** crystal and quartz cut like fragments of broken barriers, and pearls, formed through layers of resistance, for the women who broke them.
- **Beads of Peace:** born in 2022 as a benefit for Ukraine, now a universal call for peace, democracy and human dignity.
- **Never a 51st State:** the red and white of the flag in real maple leaves and vintage pearls. Canadian sovereignty, worn boldly.
- **Our North Star:** standing for what is right, no matter the storm.
- **The Beauty of Diversity, Circular by Design and Vintage & Antique** complete the story.

> *"With 150,000 years of beads already in existence, I believe we have enough to create stunning jewelry without further damaging the planet.*
> *Beauty, human rights and the protection of the planet can go hand in hand."*
> TONYA DICKENSON

WHERE THE STORY BEGAN

Cairo, 1978. Every Friday in Khan el Khalili, a Canadian diplomat's young daughter plunged her hands into burlap sacks of tarnished silver, searching for the one bead she could afford. After 25 years leading in the Canadian pharmaceutical industry, Dickenson returned to that first love, and to the treasures she had gathered across continents, to found Asymmetric by Design.

"I start with beauty, because beauty is what stops you," she says. "Then I give it a voice: a powerful statement about human rights and the values we share. These treasures already exist. My work is to give them a new life, and because every design is circular, that life never has to end."



Tonya Dickenson in her Montréal studio

A SECOND LIFE FOR WHAT SITS IN THE DRAWER

Dickenson also offers redesign and custom commissions by appointment. A grandmother's necklace, a cherished brooch, pearls no longer worn: each can become something entirely new, preserving the elements and memories that matter most.

Each design comes with its own Environmental Impact Statement, estimating the carbon and water impacts avoided by reusing existing materials. The proprietary model was commissioned by Asymmetric by Design, developed by Oxia Initiative and is being refined with master's students at McGill University.

Named to the Global 50 Women in Sustainability in 2025, Dickenson is also a recognized artist of the Canada Council for the Arts, one of Québec's Top 25 Emerging Entrepreneurs (2025), an MMODE finalist (2023, 2024 and 2025) and a Woman of Honour of Montréal International Women's Day (2026). Her work is certified Made and Designed in Québec and has been featured by CTV News, CBC, La Presse and on the cover of L'@rtikle by Mode Ô Verre.

EVENT DETAILS

WHAT	Salon des métiers d'art du Québec, 70th edition
WHEN	Tuesday, December 15 to Sunday, December 20, 2026, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
WHERE	Grand Quai of the Port of Montréal, 200 rue de la Commune Ouest (Place d'Armes metro)
BOOTH	To be confirmed
PRICES	Necklaces from $85 to $950 CAD
ADMISSION	$15, metiersdart.ca

STORY ANGLES FOR EDITORS

- **Gifts that help protect the planet:** one of a kind pieces from $85 for buy less, buy better, buy local holiday gift guides.
- **Wearing your convictions:** why women are choosing jewelry that speaks for women's rights, peace and the climate.
- **A second act:** a pharmaceutical executive turned nationally recognized artist.
- **Heirlooms reborn:** a January story on giving the jewelry sleeping in our drawers a second life.

INTERVIEWS AND HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES

Tonya Dickenson, Founder and Designer
tonya@asymmetricbydesign.com · 438 386 1367 · asymmetricbydesign.com
Press images: SMAQ 2026 image folder (Dropbox)

ABOUT ASYMMETRIC BY DESIGN

Asymmetric by Design is a Canadian jewelry brand based in Montréal, Québec, founded by designer Tonya Dickenson. Its distinctive designs are handmade predominantly from antique, vintage and recycled materials, and Tonya also redesigns jewelry people already own and creates custom commissions. Each design comes with an Environmental Impact Statement, calculated using a proprietary model commissioned by Asymmetric by Design and developed by Oxia Initiative.

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