

My retirement hobby is making jewelry from broken china, especially transferware. Since 2017 I have been selling what we call “broken china jewelry” in my Etsy shop, Sam and Tilly. Using the same process and tools as I did to make stained glass pieces, I shape and grind china shards and make them into pendants. My shards come from a variety of sources. Some damaged items have been donated by antiques dealers and collectors. Many are cracked or damaged pieces that I’ve been able to purchase inexpensively. Much of my work is bespoke, with china provided by the customer due to its family history or sentimental significance. An interesting story





surrounds this bird, which I believe was originally part of the rim of an Indus Kingfisher Hummingbirds plate or soup bowl. A student was home on break from college when Covid first broke out. Due to quarantine restrictions she was forced to remain at home for almost a year, during which time she dug out the privy in an old outhouse on her parents' property. Her mother sent me a perfect shard she unearthed there and I made it into this necklace as a surprise Christmas gift. As a

side note, a good long soak in disinfectant didn't seem to damage the old china.

Another interesting story surrounds the chamber pot in the upper section of this photo. A local merchant asked me to make necklaces for the family from her grandmother's soup



tureen. Once I put the china pieces together and broke the news, she still happily proceeded with the project!

These pieces, in the most commonly known transferware pattern, Blue Willow, are very special to a family because they



were made from a massive broken platter the owner discovered in her great grandmother's barn in Ireland.

Two of my favorite pieces were found by a local mudlarker on the shore of the Charleston harbor, not far from my home. Any guesses as to the patterns?



Every piece of china has a story, and in bespoke pieces we know and preserve the story. But with most of my projects, we can only imagine.



I would be pleased to create a bespoke china story for you.  
Please contact me, Lisa SantaMaria, through Etsy, Instagram

or Facebook to discuss your ideas. In my Etsy shop you'll see a tab labeled "about" which outlines the custom ordering process.

And please do visit me on social media to view more examples of my work. Questions are most welcome!

## INSTAGRAM

[http://instagram.com/sam\\_and\\_tilly](http://instagram.com/sam_and_tilly)  
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## FACEBOOK

<https://m.facebook.com/SamAndTilly>  
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## ETSY

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