



Carolyn Kan

Founder and
designer,
Carrie K. Artisan
Jewellery, Age 39

At the age of 34, Carolyn left her job as Managing Director of M&C Saatchi Singapore. Back then she was one of only two women at the top of an international advertising agency. She explains, "I loved advertising, but work was my life, and I was always too busy for family."

So Carolyn took a year out to think about her options. She travelled, and took a silversmithing course in Florence. "I realised it was what I wanted to do." Back home Carolyn studied jewellery fabrication and in 2009 she launched Carrie K. Artisan Jewellery. Now her annual sales exceed \$210,000 and Carrie K. is sold in six local stores, two online portals, and in three cities in Japan, including the prestigious multi-label store Make One's Mark, in Tokyo. In March, Carrie K. was one of 400 fashion designers invited to show at Paris Fashion Week. A month later, she showed at Seoul Fashion Week.

Carolyn also runs her pro-bono Keepers Artisans Showcase, a forum for like-minded designers to showcase their craft. She also runs an interns programme to cultivate "aesthetic and commercial savvy" in locals. "I tell them nothing is impossible with a plan and passion!"