

ARM CANDY

Jewelry designer Jessica Galindo's leather cuffs are more art than accessory.

IT'S NOT UNCOMMON to find Leather Couture founder Jessica Galindo roaming the halls of The Artisan Hotel, sifting through leftover props and vintage costumes from circuses past at The Gypsy Den or taking a road trip to Valley of Fire State Park for inspiration for her rocker-meets-pop-art, hot-pink-painted leather cuffs engraved with words and phrases such as *LOVER*, *MUSIC SETS YOU FREE* and *REVEL IN DIVINITY*; ruby-red rings with stamped metal and studs; and caramel-hued etched bib necklaces.

The Las Vegas native, fine artist and freelance wardrobe stylist conceived her first cuff eight years ago while in desperate need for a statement piece she couldn't find anywhere, despite scouring nearly every boutique in town. "I went home, found a piece of scrap leather and painted it," says the 28-year-old, who graduated from the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles.

Now the self-taught artist uses nontoxic, water-based acrylic paints in bright shades of tangerine, sunny yellow, turquoise and metallic pinks and greens, together with leather scraps, stencils and grommets from a local leather shop, to create everything from men's belts to her signature cuffs and bangles.

"I want people to look down at their arm and be inspired," says Galindo, who also takes cues from Moroccan, Spanish and Argentinean textiles and photographs. "I feel like each cuff is a piece of art, which sounds really cliché, but it's true. It's just a smaller canvas."—JENNIE NUNN

Jessica Galindo models several of her cuff creations.



LAS VEGAS FAVORITES

Place to kill a few hours: Brett Wesley Gallery. "It gives Downtown credibility, and it's hopeful."

Pit stop: Palio at Bellagio. "I love the pizza fresco with pesto, mozzarella, sliced tomato and fresh basil."

Rooms with a view: The Artisan Hotel. "This place is magical. I order the house Cabernet and go and sit

in the chapel. And I like to take the escalator upstairs and explore the Van Gogh and Picasso knock-offs in the hallways and lounge—it's how I came up with *ART IS SOUL TRANSLATED* that I placed on some cuffs."

Great escapes: Hanging out by the fire pit at The Griffin. "Vegas can feel so commercial, so it's nice to see a place that's not so uppity. I also love going into John Varvatos

at The Forum Shops. His shoes, ties and jackets are always fabulous. It keeps me fresh with what's happening in the rocker world."

Only-in-Vegas moment: "I'm not a go-out-on-the-Strip kind of girl, but what cracks me up is how the tourists start their morning stroll with a beer. I always wonder why, after a late night of partying, they feel they have to get up so early."