

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY



James Monaco, www.beachcut.net, was raised in New York State, where his love for the sea was spurred by Jacque Cousteau and frequent family trips to the Jersey Shore. He was an educator by profession working with elementary children while pursuing his creative endeavors cutting stone. He apprenticed as a lapidary with Harold Uhlin, a craftsman and jeweler in Scarsdale, NY and James was honored by Rock and Gem magazine in 2016 as the August Lapidary of the Month for his work with fossilize turtle shell and turquoise inlay. James is the author of guidebooks on treasure hunting, [Fee Mining and Rockhounding Adventures](#).

James studied jeweler fabrication and design at Westchester Community College, White Plains, NY, the Brookfield Craft Center, Brookfield, CT, the Scarsdale Learning Center, Scarsdale, NY, the Steward's International School for Jewelers, Jupiter, FL and glass bead fabrication in Sarasota, FL.

His bone carvings reference traditional fishhooks, protective deities from the South Pacific/New Zealand and sea creatures both real and imagined. All his carvings have his original, fresh and appealing take on conventional motifs and are set in a progressive style with high-quality natural materials of stone, bone and metal making his creations stand-out as something old and new.



An avid treasure-hunter and scuba diver, James has tested his work with years of sea water. The pendant he currently wears has been on his neck continuously for several years. His use of high-test fishing line and stainless steel findings make his pieces salt-water tolerant and beach-ready.

He hopes to find active individuals who share his love for art and the sea.

James is a recent transplant to Sarasota and a member of the Arts and Culture Alliance of Sarasota. He lives and works on the Gulf of Mexico in Florida.