

Local Shopping with a Global Impact



By Christine Cousart
Owner, Cousart Studios & Go Fish

Go Fish Clothing and Jewelry located in historic downtown Saint Augustine features a wide variety of unique items from handmade wooden carvings and metal works to hand-dyed batik clothing. Owners, Kevin and Christine Cousart opened the store in 2004 after being inspired by the “fair trade” concept. The store’s vision is to build relationships with the artisans, primarily from Mexico, Indonesia, Peru and (most recently added) Thailand and Africa. They never haggle prices or take advantage of the artists but grow relationships built on respect and fairness. For example, a group of

Go Fish artisans in Africa create exquisite necklaces out of rolled paper and use the proceeds to benefit local AIDS orphans. The store also sponsors an annual mission trip to Chimbote, Peru where they work with a handicapped woman’s group and impoverished children.

They have taught some of the locals there how to create jewelry with wire, beads and seeds for the store. In doing so, the artists are able to support their families and break the cycle of poverty. In accordance with Go Fish’s motto, “shop local, buy global,” you will not only get something really fun and unique to take home when you shop there, but you will have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping people around the globe.

Christine moved to the United States from New Zealand in 1979 and always dreamed of running her own business. As an artist—she also paints and does photography—she has a knack for creating beautiful ensembles with the batik clothing and fun accessories. She is an expert at finding the right clothing for every body type and sense of style and will give shop-

pers an enjoyable experience while she helps them find the perfect outfit. Her background in interior design also gives her the ability to advise shoppers about which

carvings or wall-hangings will complete their home’s décor. At Go Fish, fun fashion and fair trade combine for a unique and exciting style. *WJ*



Fashion Photoshoot by Christine Cousart:
www.CousartPhotography.com



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Downtown near Scarlett Ohara’s.

Batik

Batiking is part of an ancient tradition originating in Java, Indonesia. The stamps are handmade out of metal and come in many shapes and forms. The stamp is dipped in wax and the fabric is stamped with the desired pattern. Once the fabric is stamped completely, the dying process begins. The fabric is dyed and then the wax is cleaned off in specific areas where the artisans want a different color to show. Then the fabric is dyed again, and the process is repeated until the desired colorations are achieved. Wearing a piece of batik clothing is like wearing hand painted art, literally!