



Lepa Galeb Roskopp
**JEWELS REFLECT MY
 INSPIRATIONS**
 - my family and nature

Each piece of jewelry designed by Lepa Galeb Roskopp has a recognizable triangle of Unity, which symbolizes unity of all cultures in the world. Her creations are closely related to nature where she finds energy and inspiration. Family is her foundation for all business endeavours, and her husband Rob Roskopp, a skateboard legend, is her biggest support. She's a person of exceptional energy, a humanitarian and active traveler. She says she got lucky in life and work, and wishes to share some of it with all those who weren't so lucky. Her lifestyle is interesting, she lives in various parts of the world, and one of her residences is in Porto Montenegro. She has Montenegrin origins and loves our country, where she opened one of her stores. Namely, Lepa is a head designer at NY luxury jewelry brand Misahara, inspired by intact nature ranging from Adriatic sea to Sahara. These unique pieces of jewelry by Misahara are highly popular among world's jet set

Text: Marina Strugar
 Photo: Private archive

You spent your whole life searching for beauty, visiting new destinations, design... What is the definition of beautiful in Your opinion?

- Beauty as I see it is not only on the surface, but I look for internal beauty. Mother Nature is the epitome of Beautiful. The raw, pure and natural landscape of our Planet is the ultimate expression of beautiful.

Traveling is Your greatest passion, what satisfies You the most, what sort of destinations You like to visit?

- I used to be really drawn to the hip spots like St. Tropez, Nikki Beach. However, as the years have gone by, I have seen my path shifting and I'm more drawn to Mother Nature, traveling the world, exploring different cultures, and engaging with different ethnic groups. I love to mountain bike and ski, so being in the mountains is heaven for me. I also love to paddle board and surf, so the ocean is special to me as well. I

find I am most passionate when I can really get in touch with myself and I'm grounded. Then I can see the world for what it is.

What are Your most beautiful travels?

- Hawaii for the tropical beauty - take your ATV's and enter 7 different eco-climates - that is amazing. This is like Costa Rica and many South American countries that I have visited. In Europe you have old school/history which I love. It is too hard to say what is my most beautiful travel... I love different things about the places I've visited.

How much inspiration for Your creative work do You find while traveling?

- When I travel, I always have a notebook in my purse, so I can jot down an idea or moment that connects with me or take a picture of something super inspiring. For me, creating takes

place 24/7; I can find or see something, and it triggers me. I may not use it right away and it may be something I use down the road. I'm not specifically traveling to look for these moments, they just happen organically.

What is the basis of Your artistic concept?

- For me, my artistic basis is about telling a story and translating it into physical form. My art is expressed through jewelry and is my interpretation of my inspiration - Mother Nature, my family etc.

How does Your jewelry come to life? How do You select materials, how do You decide on design...?

- Through the years my designs and Misahara have evolved but the story and my inspirations have remained constant. I take special care in hand selecting every stone, inspecting and wearing each piece of jewelry so that I know it is perfect for our customers. I'm excited because we are working with new types of diamonds for this upcoming Collection - stay tuned.

An important aspect in Your life and work is nature. In what ways do You connect with it?

- I am always part of Mother Nature, either riding my bike, hiking, surfing etc. I respect Nature and our Planet to its entirety and I am humbled to really be a part of it.

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Many celebrities wear Your jewelry. Is there someone in particular that You would mention, collaboration that You're proud of?

- Yes, we are thrilled that celebrities are wearing our jewelry and over the years many have worn our pieces. It's hard to say which one I am most proud of but it was especially exciting when Lady Gaga, who I admire and respect, chose



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Misahara jewels. And we were thrilled when Oprah Winfrey wore our ring.

emerging yacht marina, Porto Montenegro.

An important segment in Your life is humanitarian work. How do You see these missions?

- Humanitarian work is a big part of my life. I believe in giving back as much as one can whether it is one's time or money. Misahara and my husband and I have worked to help children in need around the world. In Africa we helped build an addition to a school. In the Silicon Valley we help poor children gain access to a top education. In Montenegro we have focused on the parks and disadvantaged children. Recently we expanded our philanthropic work into animals and connected with Space for Giants to help end poaching. I designed a one of a kind Elephant ring that benefits this amazing cause through its sales.

What does Montenegro represent for You, and how do You spend time when here?

- Montenegro has unbelievable natural beauty... you can truly become speechless when diving into it. I think for the 1st time this last summer I was able





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to see the raw beauty of Montenegro more up-close and personal than before, thanks to my friend Janko Šćepanović. Obviously, the Adriatic is so beautiful and amazing and I will continue to enjoy spending time there each summer. Even though Misahara has a strong business presence in the region, I am committed to focusing even more of my personal time on the natural beauty.

You live at various locations. New York and Africa are just some of Your residence addresses... Why did You choose such way of living, and why did You select precisely these spots?

- I do feel nomadic, but I can't stay in one place for too long. I

am very fortunate that I am able to live in different places and that we have chosen areas around the world that fit our family dynamic. Africa is very much home for us, not only being in the wild but just the lifestyle itself. My husband and I still like surfing with our kids and spending time with the animals (the big 5). New York of course is home to Misahara, so when I am there I have tons of energy to work on designs and with our Ateliers. The New York lifestyle is great, and it gets me pumped for the new collections and the future. Montenegro is my roots. Santa Cruz is our home on the ocean to surf and decompress. Silicon Valley is the hustle and bustle of daily life with kids and school. Each location is different and bring a different value to our family.

Your husband is skateboard legend, how did you two meet?

- Yes, Rob was a professional skateboarder, I was very rebellious, and it was the 80s. The counter culture was amazing and having my innate rebellious nature I gravitated towards the surf and skating and laid-back California lifestyle. When I met him I was 15, but we did not start dating until I was 18 and we have been together ever since.

His skateboard brand is one of the most popular in the world?

- Santa Cruz is number one. Rob's boards are still selling to this day even though he stopped skating in the late 80's. His graphics are one of the best graphic designs in the world... in my opinion.

How much do you support each other in work?

- Our philosophy and advice that I give to our children is to marry someone who will lift your spirits, have your back and support you in anything you choose to do and vice versa. It is such hard work at times but what makes someone a success is their counterpart.

How do you spend family time?

- Now that 2 of my kids are in college, we are all over the place... NY/LA/Silicon Valley. We gather together as much as we can but sadly with their schooling, they don't have a much free time. We love to be active together – whether if it is swimming in the Adriatic or skiing in Tahoe we enjoy outdoor activities as a family. We also have an open-door policy at our home... we love having houseguests and entertaining through good meals and company.