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Exclusive - Kelly Bensimon from 'The Real Housewives of New York City' Dishes on Her New Jewelry Line

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Kelly Killoren Bensimon from "**The Real Housewives of New York City**" is having another go as a jewelry designer after being called a bijoux copycat by **Tuleste Market** designer Celeste Greenberg over last season's owl-pendant designs. (For the record, Bensimon claims Greenberg did it for the press, and says the fight is over.)

Now the model/designer/reality star is moving beyond the negativity and onto a new collection, dubbed "Kelly," which she designed alongside jewelry giant **Pascal Mouawad**.

StyleList snagged an exclusive interview with Bensimon on her new venture.



This real housewife has a real jewelry line. Are you buying? Photo: Theo Wargo, Getty Images

StyleList: What was the inspiration behind your Kelly line?

Kelly Killoren Bensimon: I was sitting at the **Anna Sui** fashion show and I was looking at all of her Native American-inspired clothing and I thought, I love that look. But the bad thing about Pocahontas is that she's, like, in the kayaks.

So I took her out of the kayak and into the disco so she could have a little fun. The core of the line is Navajo and American Indian inspired, with big cuffs and bangles. There are also earrings and medallions, because I love the idea of layering medallions. It's all base metal and **Swarovski** crystals.



Kelly describes the look as Pocahontas hits the disco. Photos: Kelly Bensimon

SL: And we see a lot of serpent pieces. What's that all about?

KKB: I love the idea of the snake because it's mysterious and also alluring. I wanted to do something that was unusual, but classic. So when you look at it it's beautiful, but you look closer and it's a snake.

StyleList: Were you conscious of making the prices accessible?

KKB: After being the editor of ELLE Accessories I saw that there was a huge void in the market. I wanted teenagers to be able to go and buy a pair of bangles at a good price. You don't have to be rich to look good. You can buy a \$30 pair of earrings and it can change the way you feel. And that's awesome.



Beautiful and dangerous — we're willing to take the risk! Photos: Kelly Bensimon

StyleList.com: Do you have any big accessories dos and don'ts?

KKB: People don't think you can mix gold and silver, but I love to mix it up with one arm full of gold bangles and the other silver. You can really do whatever you want as long as you're confident.

Bensimon's line "Kelly" ranges from \$32 - \$336, just hit Intermix boutiques and IntermixOnline.com.