

# SHE MADE IT!

**Four female creators have turned their crafts into blossoming businesses**

**TEXT** Cayleigh Bright **PHOTOGRAPHS** Rizqah Dollie, Sitaara Stodel, Obakeng Molepe and supplied



**I**t's the time of the year for all things bright and new – so we're turning our attention to four women creating the fresh, innovative products that you're sure to be seeing a lot more of in the months to come



**NZEKA BIYELA**

**CO-FOUNDER OF SUGARBIRD GIN**

Drink a toast to warmer days with a glass of your gin-based drink of choice, now made even tastier thanks to the Cape Town-based team behind what Sugarbird co-founder Nzeka Biyela describes as “a perfectly rounded fynbos gin at an affordable price.”

The artisanal gin has even made history: their highly successful creation was made possible by the highest-funded rewards-based crowdfunding effort ever in South Africa. The campaign was a whirlwind for Nzeka and her partners, and they’ve since delivered on the promises made to those who put their money where their taste buds are by launching a high-quality, beautifully packaged product that costs less than most others.

Nzeka wants to pass on her passion for entrepreneurship, so the brand has partnered with the Koi Group to fund business skills development, particularly among previously disadvantaged women: for every 1 000 bottles sold, a place is sponsored at a four-day two-part boot camp that teaches skills like ideation, team formation and financial management.

[sugarbirdgin.com](http://sugarbirdgin.com)





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## STACY BEUKES

### FOUNDER OF A RING TO IT JEWELLERY DESIGN

Stacy's jewellery is inspired by memories of her Cape Town childhood, particularly fun-filled school holidays spent with her brothers. Community means a lot to Stacy, which is why it's a prominent feature of her work and her business decisions: she's concerned with local production and providing job opportunities to people who were previously disadvantaged, as well as telling the stories of her culture.

Her Sweets with the Change range is a light-hearted tribute to the joy of visiting a corner shop as a child on an errand to buy bread and being allowed to spend the change on sugary treats. The pieces that stand out in this collection are the ones moulded from bubblegum, giving them a beautiful texture – and an element of surprise for those who first marvel at how beautiful the pieces are, then at the story of their unique creation process!

[aringtoit.co.za](http://aringtoit.co.za)



## SINE NDLELA

### YOCOCO

For those with a sweet tooth, sunny days spent outside aren't quite complete without a few scoops of ice-cream. Thanks to Sinenhlanhla Ndlela, there's now an ultra-tasty way to enjoy that simple indulgence whether you're vegan, lactose-intolerant, or just on the lookout for treats in fresh and exciting flavours.

Much praised for her business savvy, Sine understands that collaboration is key – with the result that Yococo has partnered up on projects with the likes of Le Creuset and Beauty on Tapp. Holding the firm belief that a handmade product is just better thanks to the love and dedication that go into it, she ensures that her ice cream is made from fresh ingredients, from start to finish, and is proud to be showing that delicious dessert is possible without animal products.

If you haven't already sampled Yococo at your favourite market, pick up a tub from a supermarket near you to try doing dessert the deliciously dairy-free way: a list of stockists is available on the brand's website.

[yococo.co.za](http://yococo.co.za)





### ANDIE REEVES

**ARTIST**

Wooly fabrics are conventionally wintry and woven tapestries are associated with keeping cosy indoors, but the colours of the pieces that Andie Reeves produces are sure to put you in the mood for long days outdoors, whether you pick pastels in ice-cream tones or blues inspired by seascapes.

Having learnt how to sew to make clothing, she has moved on to other forms of textile art, most recently exploring internet culture in embroidery: think newly iconic gen Z imagery rendered in pink and blue thread.

Andie is fascinated by the creative possibilities offered by craft, so when she's not experimenting with embroidery, weaving and sewing you'll find her offering classes and workshops to teach others these skills. Visit her website to find out how you can join in the fun.

[andiereeves.com](http://andiereeves.com)