



CHALLENGING THE CHÂTELAINE!

STEVEN FORD & DAVID FORLANO

United States of America

Role model: Julia Child

Julia Child changed the way Americans cook and eat. She exposed us to places and things that we had never heard of; that “dining was different than feeding”, and that one should “taste everything”. Steven grew up in the Midwest eating tuna casseroles, but watched all eight of her cooking series made for American Public Television. She was courageous, daring, funny, generous, and always charming to watch.

A chatelaine is a practical, working piece of jewellery that Julia would have appreciated. She described herself as a “gadget freak”, and many of her tools (along with her whole kitchen) are preserved at the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum of American History in Washington, DC.

She was above all an encouraging teacher in her television shows and her eleven cookbooks, explaining, “If I can do it, you can do it. Here is how to do it.” A talented fabricator, Maryanne Petrus, usually makes all the metalwork in our jewellery. But in keeping with Julia’s can-do approach, we did all the metalwork in this chatelaine ourselves.

Julia’s husband, Paul, introduced her to French food in the 1940’s. He wholly supported her chosen career as her collaborator, art director, photographer, and designer. His face is lightly etched on the backside of the chatelaine.



JULIA CHILD, 2006

Polymer clay, copper, sterling silver,
pyrex glass, pearls, coloured water,
graphite, steel, a raser

27 x 9 x 2 cm

