

Manotick Small Business Robbed of \$90K Worth of Jewelry

Manotick's One World Bazaar has been left in shock as burglars stole \$90K worth of jewelry.

Anneka Bakker, Owner of One World Bazaar says she arrived at her store to find her employees, who are usually bustling and busy as they prepare to open, all collected outside. Their faces were as if they had seen a ghost as they came to terms with the fact that approximately 3,000 gemstones and silver pieces had been snatched from glass cases and storage bins below the counters.

"When I found out, it was just like pure shock," said Bakker. "It was pretty devastating to see the space. A shelf had fallen, and some stuff was all over the place."

One World Bazaar presents meticulously handcrafted merchandise from small vendors from all corners of the world. Some of the items were produced in places like Indonesia, Mexico, and Guatemala. Celebrating 20 years in business, Anneka explained that it takes a long time to get these goods to the store - located at 6110 Mitch Owens Rd - and that the jewelry is not easy to replenish.

"We spend ten months of the year traveling and collecting the goods for these two months of business," said Bakker. "Everything we do is cumulative to this point, and we can open our doors. Now we're in execution mode, and when something like this happens, it really throws us upside down."

Although she felt violated by the heist, Bakker wanted to ensure that she still provided a good experience for the guests that day. "People are coming to the bazaar looking for unique, handmade pieces like our jewelry," said Bakker. "So we want to make sure that we continue to provide great customer experience and live up to the environment and expectations that we've set and have told customers to anticipate."

Despite recent events, employee Grace Whalen says she still feels safe to come to work and looks forward to every shift. However, she is much more vigilant during open hours.

"I'm just trying to help out the most that I can. Definitely, when I'm working, I'm more aware of the people around me and making sure that they [customers] are not looking around for cameras and stuff like that," said Whalen.

Customers continue to show their support for One World Bazaar and aren't deterred from making a stop at the market. The publicity also brought in new, first-time customers, said Bakker.

“Obviously, anything of this nature is very upsetting,” said customer Ben Hadler. “I try to visit the Bazaar every year, and after I heard what happened, I had to come and show my support.”

“Ultimately, the people who did this probably are not doing so well and I can only hope that they can find some help and grow themselves to a better place in their lives,” said Bakker. “We, more than anything, just want to move forward from this, focus on the good that's happening all around us, and try not to get down.”

Check out this [LINK](#) to see how this Balinese company makes its handcrafted silver jewelry, available at One World Bazaar!