

# “Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection”

*Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright invites you to “Read My Pins” at the Museum of Arts and Design*

**By Karen Jones** Special to Metromix



As the first female secretary of state, Madeleine Albright expertly utilized many tools of diplomacy, but it was former Iraq president Saddam Hussein who inadvertently created her favorite means of expression—pins. After being called a “serpent” by his state-controlled press, she responded by wearing a golden snake brooch to her next meeting with Iraqi officials. From then on her “Read My Pins” jewelry collection became a well-known part of her public persona and was often used to send a message—without saying a word.

Over 200 pins from Secretary Albright’s distinctive collection, including the famous snake brooch, a zebra worn when meeting Nelson Mandela, bees (signaling a sting), a cherished heart made by her daughter and much more are on view in “**Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection**” at the Museum of Arts and Design. Each has a compelling, historical or humorous story surrounding it, which Secretary Albright tells Metromix she hopes will make foreign policy more accessible.

“I think people need to understand that foreign policy is not foreign,” she says. “Everyday in our life something happens aboard that affects us and never more so than now.”

When asked about advice for women who want to set a signature style for themselves which is also appropriate for business, she replies, “Having an item that makes you feel feminine is appropriate, and I think people should not be embarrassed by wearing something that makes them feel good.”

An illustrated hardcover “Read My Pins: Stories from a Diplomat’s Jewel Box” accompanies the exhibit and is a must for anyone who wants to learn more about Secretary Albright’s fascinating mode of diplomatic discourse.