

Association for Contemporary Jewellery e-bulletin No 31, April 2011



Welcome to the April 2011 e-bulletin! Deadline for the May issue is Monday 16th May. Please send in your news, views, and images to enquiries@acj.org.uk. It would be very helpful if any press releases etc could be sent as word documents, not PDFs.

We are delighted to welcome the Assay Office Birmingham as Corporate Members of ACJ, and thank them for their support.

Sue Hyams
Administrator / ACJ

THE END OF THE BRITISH HALLMARK?

The 700 year old British Hallmarking system is under immediate threat from the Government's Red Tape Challenge. Comments must be submitted by 5th May or the system will be abolished by default. See and comment on the Government website (address below). Whatever your opinion, please do make it known, or the Hallmark will disappear without proper discussion.

The Red Tape Challenge, launched by Government on 7th April 2011, has started by examining the retail sector and asking the electorate for their views on topics as diverse as 'Sunday Trading' and 'Trading with the Enemy'. The aim is to reduce regulation which stifles enterprise and industry. The message from the Government appears to be that every regulation highlighted will be abolished – unless visitors to the website express sufficient good reasons to convince Ministers that this particular regulation must be kept. Hallmarking is among the eight key topics on which the population is invited to air their views from now until 5th May 2011. There are other important topics there too, of huge significance to retailers and consumers. Is it important to the British consumer for the current and future UK Jewellery Industry to maintain hallmarking as a statutory independent service?

For designer makers in particular, your personal Sponsor's Mark is a reassuring guarantee of provenance and quality for your customers, who buy with confidence from an identifiable source. We urge you to visit the Red Tape Challenge and express your views now – before Hallmarking is deregulated and 700 years of even handed consumer protection is brought to an abrupt end, not because people don't want it, but by default. Your opinion counts, please take the chance to express it!



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Please visit <http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/hallmarking> and express your views NOW . You only have until 5th May 2011 to reply.

Also please inform your networks & customers that these changes are in the pipeline - with very little publicity or notice.

For further information on the importance of hallmarking and why it should be saved, download 'The Case for Hallmarking' from the Goldsmiths' Assay Office.

<http://www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk/media/3853213/case%20for%20hallmarking.pdf>

OPPORTUNITIES

ITAMI International Craft Exhibition 2011, Japan

Application Deadline: Wednesday 10th August, 2011

Exhibition: 13th November (Saturday) - 23rd December (Thursday), 2011

Theme "Jewellery"

Guidelines can be found at: <http://mac-itami.com/english/index.html>



"I am Queen", OKUDA Naoko (Japan)
Material : wild grass
Grand Prix winner 2009

FINDINGS

Issue 51 out now!



Issue 52 will be sent out soon. Please make sure I have your correct postal address!

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WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Setting and Mounting of Gemstones

Making Space, Bishopstoke Road, Leigh Park, Havant, Hants.

10 week evening course

Led by [Tom Wellburn](#)

Wednesdays, 11th May to 20th July (excluding half term)

6pm to 9pm - £285

Focusing on precision and accuracy, the aim is to produce high quality work. Those wanting to learn stone setting will cover "paved" setting exercises to equip you with all the necessary skills. Traditional jewellery techniques will be taught to those who choose "mounting".

Basic materials will be supplied and the course will take place at Making Space's jewellery studios. Additional materials can be purchased in class. A full list of materials and a detailed week-by-week plan will be available to download from <http://www.makingspace.org>



Tom Wellburn Pendant, Gold Award Winner of the Goldsmith's Craftmanship & Design Awards, 2011

Jewellery Fakes & Forgeries seminar

Goldsmiths' Hall, London

Friday 10th June 2011 - £65, including lunch and wine.

As a partner of this year's London Jewellery Week, the Goldsmiths' Company Assay Office will be hosting a Jewellery Fakes and Forgeries Seminar, an adaptation of the renowned Silver Fakes and Forgeries Seminar. This unique event, held in the magnificent Goldsmiths' Hall, is a must for collectors, dealers, auction houses, retailers and anyone interested in the world of jewellery and watches. The seminar includes lectures by experts from the BBC's Antiques Roadshow, the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry and the Gemmological Association of Great Britain. It also features hands-on sessions giving you the opportunity to learn how to spot faked gemstones, hallmarks, jewellery and watches from some of the most famous names in the trade.

Spaces are limited and by reservation only.

<http://www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk/assay-office/download-centre/other-information/>

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REGIONAL GROUPS

ACJ Cambridge

At our May meeting, ACJ Cambridge will be having a talk by Amanda Hill, from the Social Media Cafe, to inform us how to use the various forms of social networking, such as facebook & twitter, to enhance & expand our business. Several of our members are busy with shows & exhibitions, including Emma Turpin, who will be exhibiting at "Bloom", at 75, New Street Contemporary Jewellery Design in Salisbury from 27th April. Also, Heather Stowell & Liz Willis will be at Craft Central's open studio event "Made in Clerkenwell" in London from 19th – 22nd May. Liz will also be exhibiting at Brook Street Pottery in Hay on Wye during the literary festival from 22nd May. Contact for ACJ Cambridge is Liz Willis – contact@lizwillisjewellery.co.uk

ACJ Wales

Update from Karen Dell'Armi: The Launch is taking place on Saturday 14th May at the Mari Thomas Gallery, Swansea Waterfront from 11am onwards. There will be two brief talks then an informal networking opportunity along with showcases of members' work. We have 16 members currently, and aim to grow this following the launch. The next meeting will be on Monday 4th July, details to follow. There are also plans for member exhibitions as part of the Cardiff Design Festival later in the year. We very much look forward to a great event and seeing some of you there.

Contact for ACJ Wales is Clare Collinson - clarecollinson@hotmail.co.uk

NEWS!

The Goldsmiths' Company Assay Office announce Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Mark

A special commemorative hallmark has been designed to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The mark, depicting a young Queen Elizabeth wearing an oversized crown, will be available from all four Assay Offices as an optional mark in combination with the statutory hallmark from 1 July 2011 until 1 October 2012. The minimum size available for the mark is 0.75mm. Cost per application will be 60p (laser marks may incur a premium). Point of sale material and consumer information will be available from 1st June. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk/assay-office/news/diamond-jubilee-commemorative-mark/>



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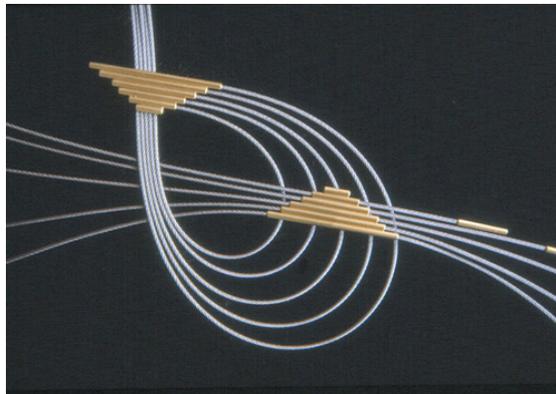
DOROTHY ERICKSON EVENT FOR ACJ MEMBERS

An Evening with Dr Dorothy Erickson

ACJ Members are invited to a special private view of Dr Dorothy Erickson's exhibition at the Lesley Craze Gallery on Thursday 15th September 2011, from 6 - 8pm. At 7pm Dr Erickson will give a talk about her work and that of fellow makers in Western Australia.

Tickets cost £12 and are limited to paid-up members of ACJ, and the Society of Jewellery Historians. Drinks will be served.

To apply, see the flyer at the end of this e-bulletin.



Dorothy Erickson – Peacock, multi positioning body piece

EXHIBITIONS

Under that Cloud. Galerie Spectrum, Munich, and touring.

Remember the volcanic ash cloud after the Icelandic eruption? It happened at the close of the 'Walking the Gray Area' international conference last April in Mexico City (reported in Findings 51), and stranded the delegates while all flights were suspended. Undaunted, Jo Bloxham conceived an exhibition in response to their predicament, encouraging delegates to make jewellery based on the unexpected situation, and turning the results into an exhibition. Some artists began researching and exploring local Mexican traditions of costume and adornment, others developed ideas continuing their habitual preoccupations, or responded to the feelings of frustration and anxiety shared by people who were prevented from pursuing other commitments back home. Altogether 18 international artists took part, including Caroline Broadhead and Sarah O'Hana, each with a different take on the situation.

We shall all have a chance to see the results, as within the international tour, the exhibition will be shown at mima in Middlesbrough and at Manchester Art Gallery later this summer and autumn. Dates not yet available, but watch this space. And aspiring reviewers please get in touch.

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Beneath The Skin, Sheffield Institute of Arts, 24th March – 24th April
Report from Dauvit Alexander

Jivan Astfalck, Elizabeth Callinicos, Jack Cunningham, Andreas Fabian, Chris Knight, Cólín Ó Dubhghaill, Laura Potter, Jessica Turrell

Running as part of the ambitious “Galvanize Sheffield” festival, this exhibition is one of many events celebrating the diversity and vitality of the metalwork industries in a city which has worked hard to revitalise, preserve and promote traditional metalworking skills such as cutlery and flatwares, silversmithing, and jewellery.

Curated by Maria Hanson, Beneath The Skin is a far-reaching show of work from the cutting-edge of research into metalwork in the UK, both scientific, aesthetic and philosophical, and draws on a wide range of modes, styles and techniques to build a fascinating picture of the exciting range of work being done. Everything about this exhibition is well-considered and respectful, from the choice of artists to the layout of the accompanying catalogue.

The exhibition has been arranged in the lower gallery of the Sheffield Institute of Arts building, a spacious and calm gallery which invites contemplation of a body of work which demands attention and the respect of considered study. Each of the eight exhibitors is given enough space to allow his or her work to be viewed as an isolated exhibit without removing it from the context of the other works and the video displays and interactive elements are respectfully muted.

It is impossible to select one work - or even one body of work - as representative of this exhibition, a problem neatly solved on the advertising and catalogue by the use of a stylised swirl of colour: each of the artists represented brings something unique and fresh to the show thus what follows is a few notes on each of the exhibits.

Jivan Astfalck's deeply philosophical underpinning of her work relates the very current preoccupations of environment and recycling to create anti-commodified works of great beauty, infused with nostalgia. Her work often derives from literature and uses such diverse materials as found wood, ceramic doll parts, pearls, pages from books as well as the more traditional jewellery materials. The work – largely neck-pieces - was presented along with several of her weighty philosophical texts and one of the great pleasures of these works is the tension between the immediate emotional appeal that they have and the philosophical investigations which preceded their creation.

Elizabeth Callinicos: An underlying alchemy – and a love of the same – guides this body of work: mirrors, retorts, laboratory vessels and vintage medical equipment are all present in the source materials which are presented alongside the beautiful, simple and understated objects which Elizabeth has created with great finesse and skill. One of the most striking parts of this exhibit was the sketch-book explorations of the source material and the way in which the finished works – largely in blown glass and metal – explore both the dimensionality of the source and the idea of the “shadow” or the “silhouette” of the source.

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Jack Cunningham's work with the brooch form is almost too well-known to followers of contemporary jewellery to allow for the necessary distance to be able to see the work dispassionately. It takes an effort of will to be able to “look again” and to appreciate the forms and narratives which lie behind the finished work. In this exhibit, Jack has presented a series of pieces which make this easier for the viewer by moving his readily-identifiable style forward with a shift of colour-pallet and material, using more white and plain silver than before, using surfaces enhanced by subtle pencil drawings. This work was presented with additional video material and sketch-books: the link between the source material and the finished work is fascinating and intriguing.

Andreas Fabian: It would be hard not to laugh at this exhibit. Not because it is in any way laughable, but more because Andreas quite plainly found his notion of defining “spoonness” (the Platonic idea of a spoon) not only engaging but amusing. It is too rare to encounter humour combined with craftsmanship or philosophy, but here all three are pulled together very successfully, engaging with the viewer on many levels. The “spoon” objects themselves are beautifully made from wood, felt, silver, steel and other materials. They make the viewer ask, “In what way is this a spoon”: the answer is always surprising.

Chris Knight's work is everywhere in Sheffield: from the fountains at the railway station to the fencing on a car-park, from the Millenium Gallery to St. Mary's Cathedral. It was, therefore, excellent to be able to see some of his more recent small-scale works in this exhibition, notably his now famous “Lest We Forget” chalice. The most interesting part of this exhibit was the way in which Chris works on the interface between CAD and traditional craft, using 3D software to design pieces, laser-cutting on elements of the pieces, then bringing the whole together with the time-honoured traditions of metalsmiths.



Chris Knight – Lest We Forget Chalice
Winner of the 2010 Museums Sheffield Metalwork Design Award

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Cóilín Ó Dubhghaill: Since his first forays into metalworking, Cólín has been fascinated by Japanese metalwork techniques, even to the extent of living and studying in Japan. For his exhibit in this show, he worked with Dr. Hywel Jones, a material scientist, in order to research reliable methods of using the Irogane metals and the colouring of these. Additionally, he invited Dauvit Alexander, Fabrizio Tridenti and Grace Horne to take some of these materials and to produce pieces using them in their own way. These pieces – a tattoo-machine by Dauvit Alexander, knives by Grace Horne and a brooch by Fabrizio Tridenti – plus several bowls by Cólín show the potential for western artists to use these materials.

Laura Potter: Using wool and found objects, Laura explores the ideas around what is precious to the individual in opposition to more generalised concepts of preciousness. A colourful and determinedly craft-based exhibit, she boldly – shamelessly – embraces the current Etsy-mentality craft aesthetic, combining it with her post-feminist ideas about nostalgia and childhood, even incorporating wooden knitting machines and a toy periscope into her narrative.

Jessica Turrell: Focussing on the surface of enamel itself, Jessica's works transcend the usual concerns of enamel with colour and/or the manner of application. Her skill in using the tricky medium is phenomenal and in some ways it is quite sad that the majority of people who see her work in this exhibition will not be able to appreciate the technical mastery displayed here. Anyone, however, will be able to admire the pure and elegant simplicity of the work, much of which explores ideas of mark-making and the disruption of surface. Much of the work is based on writing or cipher-like intrusions into fields, the idea of palimpsests and this is combined with larger-scale enamelling techniques such as those used in industry for the production of enamelled panels.

Overall, an exciting, thought-provoking and intriguing show and one which it is hoped will be sent out on tour to further general awareness of the range of activities being undertaken by contemporary jewellers and metalsmiths in the UK today.

EXCLUSIVE MEMBER DISCOUNTS!

Treasure, as part of London Jewellery Week, 9th – 12th June 2011

ACJ is planning to display work from a number of members in a group case. This was very successful last year, with 3 pieces of work per maker. The cost will be about £65 and some stewarding is requested. To express an interest email projects@acj.org.uk.

Treasure are offering a 12.5% discount for ACJ members who want to have their own stand - please specify ACJ when applying, and you will display the ACJ logo on your stand. This brings the cost to £700 + VAT (£840), down from £800 + VAT (£960)

See <http://www.treasureuk.com/exhibit> for applications which close 30th April.



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New Designers 2011

Part 1 from 29th June to 2nd July, and Part 2 from 6th – 9th July.

ACJ Members are offered a special price ticket offer to attend New Designers. Please quote ND62 in order to purchase tickets for £8.50 (+ £1.50 booking fee) instead of paying £14 on the door. To be eligible for the discount, please book in advance at www.newdesigners.com or call 08448 480140 (from 9th May).



Memento Mori – Jing Jing Cao
CSM Jewellery Design

Cookson discount – The Cookson Precious Metals discount for ACJ members applies to silver sheet, tube, wire & grain, and most findings. However gold, platinum & palladium bullion, tools and other items are NOT covered. If you have personally received an email or two from Tamizan (projects@acj.org.uk) within the last month, then you ARE registered already (please examine your inbox!) and there is no need to write again.

You can check for your discount by going to www.cooksongold.com, find the price of (say) 10cm x 10cm silver sheet, then log in to Cookson (or register if you have not already done so) and check that same item & quantity again - there should be some discount. If you haven't yet registered, email projects@acj.org.uk with your **Cookson account number**, **Cookson account name**, and ACJ membership number. We submit the new list once a month.

Birmingham School of Jewellery

School of Jewellery, Birmingham 2011 Summer Course Programme: ACJ members are offered a 10% discount by quoting code ACJ10 when booking.

For further information visit <http://www.biad.uce.ac.uk/courses/pregrad/jewelleryshort.htm>

email dawn.meaden-johnson@bcu.ac.uk

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Sutton Tools and Walsh: Don't forget you can get 10% discount with both Sutton Tools and Walsh. The discount from Walsh's and Suttons apply to most tools (a few exceptions with each company) - quote the code when ordering - see the member section. Quote the ACJ code when ordering - log in to www.acj.org.uk, members only section / member benefits.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DISCOUNT CODES ARE TO BE CHANGED ON A REGULAR BASIS, SO TO BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS UP TO DATE!

Insurance

There have been several enquiries about insurance. We've been researching, and some results & contact details for several companies can be seen at

<http://www.acj.org.uk/index.php/members/fact-sheets-and-guidelines>

In the meantime the Clear Insurance policy, available to members of ACJ and other organisations such as Craft Central & Cockpit Arts, approaches its annual renewal date of 1st April. Read the details at

http://www.thecleargroup.com/craft_designer.php [Craft-Workers and Designer-makers insurance policy](#)

Philip Keightley of the Clear Group is happy to answer any queries:

philip.keightley@thecleargroup.com 0208 329 4966

ACJ can take no responsibility for this information, and you should research carefully any policy you consider buying, and ask questions if you are not sure on any point.

ACJ Member Services

We have a LinkedIn group! A couple of discussions have started already so please do join in!

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=3628898&trk=anet_uq_grpro

And we have a Facebook page so please follow us – click “like”!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Association-for-Contemporary-Jewellery/154421587931557?v=wall>

"Member of ACJ" show cards:

We have a quantity of "Member of ACJ" A5 tent cards and A4 show cards to display at exhibitions, etc. If you would like a copy of each, please send an A4 sized stamped addressed envelope to the PO Box address. A large letter stamp should suffice.



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Member Logo:

Please get in touch if you would like a copy of our new "Member of ACJ" logo.
enquiries@acj.org.uk



Website:

Don't forget to add your profile to our member gallery! Once logged in you can post images, biography, and details of any exhibitions. Make sure you click "yes" to show profile under the main picture tab. The main picture in the gallery should be of your work, but do feel free to add a photograph of yourself in the additional images. There are lots of things to look at in the members section of the website too – current and past issues of the e-bulletin, an application form for our professional development award, plus the latest member benefits. You can renew your membership online too!

Events Support:

We'd love to hear from you with suggestions you might have for any events, exhibitions or conferences. Please contact the administrator with any suggestions.

Findings:

The ACJ newsletter, welcomes contributions of all kinds for the future issues, especially features, reports and reviews. Please email material to Muriel Wilson on murielwilson73@yahoo.co.uk.

Regional Groups:

Regrettably the budget will not stretch to regional group grants in the coming financial year, and these have been temporarily suspended. We can however offer lots of practical help on setting up a regional group – contact enquiries@acj.org.uk



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ACJ Executive Council

Chair: Terry Hunt

Company Secretary/ Honorary Treasurer: Dr Lynne Bartlett

Company Directors: Dauvit Alexander, Dr Lynne Bartlett, Ruta Brown, Jack Cunningham, Janet Fitch, Heidi Hinder, Terry Hunt, Rebecca Skeels

Advisory Panel: Ute Decker, Karen Dell'Armi, Jacqueline Gestetner, Joanna Hardy, Linda Lambert, Bridie Lander, Mark Lewis, Kath Libbert, Gill Mallett, Samantha Queen, Gemma Scully, Islay Spalding, Liz Willis, Muriel Wilson (ex-officio)

ACJ staff (part-time)

Administrator: Sue Hyams – enquiries@aci.org.uk

Development Manager: Tamizan Savill – projects@aci.org.uk

ACJ Contacts

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W. www.acj.org.uk

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South Wales – Clare Collinson
clarecollinson@hotmail.co.uk

Wessex – Gill Mallett
gillery@btinternet.com



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*The Association for Contemporary Jewellery
and The Society of Jewellery Historians*

Invite you to

An Evening with Dr Dorothy Erickson

**A special private view of her exhibition at the
Lesley Craze Gallery
34 Clerkenwell Green, London EC1 (Tel: 020 7608 0393)
On Thursday 15th September 2011
6-8pm**

At 7pm Dr Erickson will give a talk about her work and that of fellow makers in Western Australia.

Tickets cost £12 and are limited to paid-up members of both societies (joint members of SJH may apply for 2 tickets). Drinks will be served. For reasons of space the event will be limited to 40 people. If it is oversubscribed a ballot will be held on 30 August and cheques returned to disappointed applicants.

Closing date for applications will be Monday 22nd August.

An Evening with Dorothy Erickson, Thursday 15th September

Name (s) _____
Address _____

Telephone number (daytime) _____
Email (Please write clearly) _____

Please make cheques payable to The Association for Contemporary Jewellery, and send to the address below, enclosing SAE.

Association for Contemporary Jewellery
PO Box 37807, London, SE23 1XJ

