

A Yorkshire Jewellery Artist whose work asks the question 'What is Precious?' is turning heads in The Craft Centre and Design Gallery Leeds this Summer.

Inspired by traditional jewellery making techniques which show off precious gemstones, Amy Stringer applies different methods of shaping and cutting to cement which pushes the boundaries of contemporary jewellery design. Her brooches, earrings, necklaces and bangles showcase cement in a whole new light making the viewer question what is precious.

When this commonly tough and rugged material is crafted into a beautiful cut shape nestled delicately into silver or brass it takes on a whole new meaning.

"So many people have come up to me and commented on a brooch I might be wearing, asking what gemstone it is, when actually it is cement. It's great to see their reactions."

Having lived in Leeds and Sheffield for most of her life, Amy has been inspired by the wonderful architecture around her. The subtle differences in the buildings of each city she lived in and visited, throughout the country, and the difference between the inner hearts of cities and the countryside outskirts resulted in some stunning jewellery collections being made which have been displayed in galleries across the UK and internationally.

You can marvel at these pieces and contemplate for yourself what is precious in the gallery from Tuesday to Saturday 10am -5pm. Amy is also The Craft Centre's Jewellery Co-ordinator so next time you visit you might even get to meet this talented jeweller making her mark in the world of contemporary jewellery.

For further information on the gallery's exhibition programme you can sign up to their monthly newsletter via their website or visit the What's On page of their website www.craftcentreleeds.co.uk