

Staying Alive; Leeds Craft Centre & Design Gallery Continue to Celebrate Contemporary Craft in the City

The Leeds The Craft Centre and Design Gallery have always been well known for introducing cutting edge contemporary jewellery to the city's exciting art and cultural scene. For the past 36 years their exhibition programme has celebrated the work of talented makers from across the UK to shout out that contemporary craft is very much alive. Their current Christmas jewellery show is a celebration of the traditional jewellery making skills and techniques still used in the making of contemporary jewellery today.

One of the jewellers exhibiting with the gallery is Karolina Baines who views jewellery as sculptures that move with us. Reflecting this she looks to instil a sense of movement into her work through strategically placed lines which suggest rhythm and changes of direction.

In finding inspiration for her pieces she tends to focus on often unnoticed details in the environment discovering the beauty present in that which is overlooked; for example the interplay between urban and organic in allotments.

It is not just the visual that appeals to Karolina, but the feeling and texture of the world around her. Engaging textures are essential to her work, in recognition that touch is in many ways a more primal sense than sight. Textures can interact with the imagination to both comfort and power the wearer of her pieces as they interact with them throughout the day.

Karolina tends to bring together a variety of influences, for example clothing pleats and Venetian architecture with basketry, in interesting yet simple ways. As a jewellery maker, her work is strongly rooted in the sketchbook process, especially in the use of collaging and printmaking, with a strong emphasis on line work and mark making and a passion for deep and vibrant colours. A preference for enamels and etching are characteristic of her work.

Karolina's work will be displayed alongside more jewellery collections by Ella Fearon-Low, Jenny Llewellyn, Mamm & Myrgh, Fiona DeMarco, Monique Jeffery-Jones, Katherine Campbell-Legg, Carol Hunt, Sarah Pulvertaft and Catherine Rua right up until the 5th January next year.

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