



Press Release

Date

28 October

Crafts Council

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Launch of I AM HERE: Portable art, wearable objects, jewellery since the 1970s

I AM HERE, a Crafts Council Touring Exhibition of contemporary jewellery launches at the Upper Gulbenkian Gallery at the Royal College of Art from 9 to 25 November 2015.

--The press view is on 6 November, 9.30am to 12noon--

I AM HERE features 98 pieces of studio jewellery by the most significant European makers from the last five decades.

Starting with pieces from the most radical era of making in the 1970's, I AM HERE tells a story of jewellery through the work held in the collections of Crafts Council, mima, Galerie Marzee, Gallery S O and Pangolin London.

The New Jewellery movement of the 1970s saw jewellers using non-precious materials and experimental design to highlight contemporary social and political issues. This shifted our idea of what jewellery could be and had a profound impact on future making both in the UK and beyond.

The exhibition includes work by Susanna Heron, one of the first jewellers to use Perspex in the early 1970s, a film of an arm piece made of ice by Naomi Filmer and a bejewelled fur-coated emperor penguin brooch by Dutch jeweller Felieke van der Leest.

Other jewellers include Gijs Bakker, David Bielander, Caroline Broadhead, Peter Chang, Gerda Flöckinger, Karl Fritsch, Rudolf Kocea, Otto Künzli, Roger Morris, Ted Noten, Lina Peterson, Dorothea Prühl, Mah Rana, Hans Stofer, Emmy van Leersum and David Watkins.

The exhibition also features a new piece from Tatty Devine's most recent collection. The Crafts Council have commissioned Tatty Devine to produce two new special jewellery editions that will be sold exclusively by the Crafts Council to celebrate I AM HERE.

The exhibition's title comes from an essay by the anthropologist Ted Polhemus in which he says, *'Lost in an increasingly undifferentiated, homogenised global universe we urgently need visual adjectives which proclaim 'I am here'*. This essay was commissioned

for the catalogue of the 2007 Jerwood Applied Arts Prize – the last Crafts Council exhibition to showcase the work of contemporary jewellers.

Images

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1rhv04sslbjzen1/AACQeCh--69T7fWIHhbq1Lbfa?dl=0>

- Ends -

For more information on the Crafts Council please contact the press office on media@craftscouncil.org.uk or +44 (0) 207 806 2500.

www.craftscouncil.org.uk / @CraftsCouncilUK / #IAMHERE

Images

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1rhv04sslbjzen1/AACQeCh--69T7fWIHhbq1Lbfa?dl=0>

Visiting Information

Upper Gulbenkian Gallery
Royal College of Art
Kensington Gore
London SW7 2EU

Monday- Sunday 9.30am-5.30pm

FREE admission

Notes to Editors

About the Crafts Council Collection

- The Crafts Council Collection was formed in 1972 and charts the history and development of contemporary craft in the UK, capturing significant moments in the work of a maker, and developments in practice. It currently includes over 400 jewellery pieces and represents many of the great and iconic names and works in the modern history of jewellery practice, such as Caroline Broadhead, David Watkins, Roger Morris, Gerda Flöckinger, Lina Peterson, Naomi Filmer, and Andrew Lamb.

About the mima collection

- mima's collection charts jewellery design from the inception of the New Jewellery Movement of the 1960s to the present day. Many of the pieces challenge the concept of jewellery by questioning the traditional approach to wearability and the use of materials. mima, in partnership with Teesside University, has built a permanent gallery space to display its outstanding international collection of contemporary jewellery. The collection, which comprises over 200 objects, is one of the finest in the UK, and includes work by Ted Noten, Gijs Bakker, Karl Fritsch, Wendy Ramshaw, Otto Künzli and Felieke van der Leest.

About Galerie Marzee

- Since it was founded in 1978, Galerie Marzee has become one of the principal promoters of contemporary jewellery and silverware worldwide. Although it is primarily a commercial gallery, very early on Marzee's founder Marie-José van den Hout saw the importance of establishing a permanent record of the key works that she exhibited as a document of the gallery's history. Since its inception in 1979, the Marzee Collection has grown to include over 1,000 items of jewellery, featuring work by some of the most influential makers of the late twentieth century.

About Gallery S O

- Gallery S O was founded in 2003 in Solothurn, Switzerland, to celebrate contemporary art objects and jewellery, boldly inhabiting the border between art and design. In 2009 a London space was opened on Brick Lane, profiling works by international artists and makers. Gallery S O is concerned with developing jewellery practice for the future as well as promoting works for sale.

About Pangolin London

- Pangolin London is a commercial gallery dedicated to sculpture, representing both established and emerging artists. For this exhibition Pangolin London have kindly lent two works by artists – Lynn Chadwick and Geoffrey Clarke - whose work they represent and who featured in their Sculptors Jewellery exhibition of 2014.

About the Crafts Council

- The Crafts Council's goal is to make the UK the best place to make, see, collect and learn about contemporary craft. We believe that craft plays a dynamic and vigorous role in the UK's social, economic and cultural life and that everyone should have the opportunity to make, see, collect and learn about craft.
- The Crafts Council is supported using public funding by Arts Council England.
www.artscouncil.org.uk



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