



Press release 11 March 2011

Major Jewellery Exhibition at mima **The Modern Jewel: In time and the mind of others**

In collaboration with **museummaker**

25 March - 10 July 2011

PHOTO/TV/RADIO OPPORTUNITY: Taxis and drivers being presented with brooches and window ornaments in the specially erected 'mima drive through'.
11.00am Thursday 24 March.

The Modern Jewel: In time and the mind of others is a major new exhibition of jewellery at mima. It is the largest showing of mima's highly regarded contemporary jewellery collection and the culmination of the prestigious two-year **museummaker** project.

mima's permanent jewellery collection is unique in the UK for its focus on contemporary international practice, and is comparable in importance to the contemporary jewellery collections at the Crafts Council and the V&A. The exhibition includes new works created as part of the **museummaker** project by international artists Atelier Ted Noten, and by Lin Cheung and Laura Potter working in collaboration.

The **museummaker** project involved sixteen museums across four participating regions. The project has enabled the museums to work with international artists to create new works for their collections. It is unlocking the creative potential of collections through imaginative interchanges between the heritage and contemporary craft sectors. As part of Middlesbrough Museums and Galleries (mima, The Dorman Museum and Captain Cook Birthplace Museum) mima took the opportunity to develop new jewellery works for the collection with the specific aim of engaging members of the local community who might not traditionally be familiar with contemporary jewellery artists and practice.

The project started with a series of talks and workshops with Middlesbrough residents. **Lin Cheung and Laura Potter** worked with the local community to create jewellery pieces, Lin and Laura taught each participant how to make an individual mould from cuttlefish and how to cast it in pewter. Lin and Laura have produced a collective commission for all of the residents involved in the workshops, making individual pieces for everybody, by casting from their original cuttlefish moulds. At the workshops, Lin and Laura also identified two individuals as their "commissioners": **Lucinda Evans of Ponteland** and **Charlotte Wood of Teesside**. Lucinda and Charlotte have had pieces made especially for them. Each is created in an edition of two— the participant will be able to keep and wear theirs and the second will enter the museum's collections.

Ted Noten embarked on journeys through Middlesbrough with local taxi drivers. The conversations resulted in Atelier Ted Noten making a winged installation for the taxi window and a brooch for taxi driver's in Middlesbrough, in an edition of 300. The taxi drivers will be acting as ambassadors for mima and have been invited to the exhibition launch and event in mima's car park to collect their very own piece of jewellery. Involving a temporary 'drive-thru' structure, all drivers will have their photographs taken and receive their gifts. The photographs will then be displayed in mima's gallery in a 'Hall of Fame' type display.

As well the works produced as part of the museummaker project, much of mima's permanent jewellery collection will be on show including some new acquisitions. There will also be a showcase by contemporary artist Maisie Broadhead who creates a modern day re-interpretation of historical paintings where jewellery is at the centre of the image's meaning. mima's permanent jewellery collection contains many works by the 1980s New Jewellery Movement, who questioned material, value, sentimentally and wearability. More recent collecting reflects the emergence of radical approaches to goldsmithing. The collection includes key pieces by Karl Fritsch, Ted Noten, Gijs Bakker, Emmy van Leersum, Caroline Broadhead, Ruudt Peters, Gesiné Hackenberg, Otto Künzli, Giovanni Corvaja and David Watkins.

To accompany the exhibition there will be a series of free talks, workshops and events that will look at jewellery and collecting.

museummaker is supported by Arts Council England (ACE), Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and its Renaissance Programme. As well as offering new experiences for existing museum visitors, museummaker is establishing innovative ways of developing audiences.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Also showing at mima this spring

Carey Young: Memento Park

31 March – 20 July 2011

A new video commission and major exhibition
In collaboration with Eastside Projects,
Birmingham and Cornerhouse, Manchester

stay + PLAY

31 March – 10 July 2011

A new family space for looking, making & exploring

Have Your Say

25 March – 10 July 2011

A film by TMT, mima's group of young people

Sam Belinfante, *Penumbra*

31 March – 20 July 2011

mima soundspace

Middlesbrough Museum and Galleries service

mima Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art: One of the UK's major museums of contemporary fine art and craft. Centre Square, Middlesbrough TS1 2AZ
www.visitmima.com

Captain Cook Birthplace Museum: Ethnographic collections relating to Cook and the countries he explored. Stewart Park, Marton, Middlesbrough TS7 8AT
www.captcook-ne.co.uk

Dorman Museum: Social history and significant collections of natural history and work by Christopher Dresser. Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough TS5 6LA
www.dormanmuseum.co.uk

Lin Cheung

Lin Cheung is inspired by the social and personal issues that shape our lives: the objects we own, cherish and wear, and our relationships with them. She maintains that jewellery must be imbued with our past and present experiences to fully define it beyond a mere decorative object. Public collections featuring her work include Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent; Contemporary Art Society, London; and the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.

Laura Potter

Laura Potter sees personal possessions as integral to the way an individual constructs an identity. She considers jewellery items to be extremely valuable, not only in material and aesthetic terms but because they are key artefacts through which we establish a sense of self. Commissions have included work for the Florence Nightingale Museum and Potter has exhibited internationally in the UK and Europe.

ATELIER Ted Noten

Based in Amsterdam, Ted Noten is a designer whose work explores the concepts of jewellery. Having trained as a jeweller at Maastricht and at the prestigious Gerrit Rietveld Academy (although he has also worked as a bricklayer and a psychiatric nurse), Noten's work does not show great interest in traditional metalsmithing techniques. Rather he marshals a diverse range of materials, whatever is most appropriate for the ideas that he is working with. The underlying, recurring, theme of his work is to challenge convention and processes of habituation, the familiar and the unusual.

In recent years Ted Noten has created work for private collectors, local councils, art institutions etc. A broad spectrum of galleries and museum collections all over the world now represent his oeuvre.

Maise Broadhead

Lives and works in London. Broadhead graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2009 with a Masters in Jewellery. Her work is a combination of incomplete jewellery with staged photography; each piece of jewellery is presented with a re-modelled transcription of an old master painting that conceptually related to notions of what is real and fake within her practice. She presented her first UK solo show *The House of Fake* at Sarah Myerscough Gallery November 2010.

Lucinda, a solicitor and part-time lecturer in law, has worked as a lawyer in London and South East Asia. She enjoys fencing and Viking re-enactments. Lucinda was taken to the ***Captain Cook Birthplace Museum*** where she was interested in the ceremonial swords, scrimshaw (bones with etched, inked decorations) and an ornately carved treasure box. Having experimented with different ideas for Lucinda, Lin and Laura decided to produce pieces for her using the technique of **scrimshaw**, and these include biographical images and text specific to Lucinda.

Charlotte, 19 years old, is about to start a National Diploma in Fashion Design. She was taken to the ***Dorman Museum***, where she identified *Egyptian prints*, prints by artist *Viva Talbot*, and *mineral samples* as her favourite objects. For Charlotte's commission, Lin and Laura's final work focuses on ownership and exchange, and comprises two sets of silver and gold beads; one set will be held by the museum and a second set by Charlotte, who can string and wear her beads as a necklace. The beads displayed in the museum are not strung. It is planned that Charlotte will visit the museum at designated intervals and swap her beads for those held there.

museummaker Museum partners

museummaker has 16 museum partners. They embrace large city institutions, small independent rural museums and universities. They include contemporary and historic buildings, such a guildhall, former colliery, lead mine, an almshouse and show piece palaces. Many have gardens, some have extensive parklands. Their locations stretch from London to Lincolnshire; Northumberland to Sussex. Each partner has considered carefully how they would like to collaborate with makers to bring their collections to life and engage their communities. Their projects offer makers an unprecedented range of opportunities to make permanent and temporary work on a range of scales with many different functions – such as animating indoor and outdoor spaces, creating winter lighting and free standing and hanging pieces.



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