

Paris Gallery Hosts The Union Jack to Feature UK Designers

Following the success of the 'English Spring' exhibition in 2013, the Elsa Vanier Gallery hoisted the Union Jack again in 2015, with an exhibition at the Paris gallery from March 21 to May 8.

The Elsa Vanier Gallery sets out to promote the deep cultural dimensions of jewelry designed by artists, who have chosen rare, precious or fascinating materials to express their art.

Three new designers joined the selection, which also includes the latest creations of those who featured in the first line-up. The exhibition promoted the talents of nine very different artists, as the Gallery again aimed at illustrating the diversity of styles in British jewelry art.

The jewelers and silversmiths whose work was exhibited were: Jonathan Boyd, Ornella Iannuzzi, Heather Woof, Jacqueline Cullen, Sarah Herriot, Rie Taniguchi, Josef Koppmann, Kayo Saito and Jo Hayes-Ward, with the first three being new designers.

"The jewelry on show was a large collection of unique inspiration and broad-ranging expertise: words become

object, the wind on blades of titanium, an ode to nature, a cry to respect the planet or even a tribute to crystal and architected pieces," said Elsa Vanier. "The designers, often laureates of international renown, are just as much at home with rock'n'roll and Gothic pieces, as with precious pieces of discreet originality.

"Traditional metals – 18K gold, platinum or solid silver – rub shoulders with the more avant-garde titanium and palladium, a grey metal from the platinum family still relatively uncommon in France."

The exhibition was held under the auspices of the UK Goldsmiths' Company, which supported the first edition. Founded by royal charter in 1327, the historic company has been guaranteeing the quality of precious metals used in jewelry and silverware in the United Kingdom for 700 years. Its role now includes promoting goldsmiths and jewelers by commissioning exceptional pieces, organizing awards and exhibitions.

Jonathan Boyd

Jonathan Mathew Boyd's work deals with the strange and complex relationships that exist between object, written language and the body.

Jonathan is interested in how language can shape thoughts about an object and its context, with his works often being inspired by the text's narrative.

Recent works take their inspiration from the complexity of natural and unforced

conversations. Rather than filtering the silences, irregularities and disfluencies in our speech, his works aim at highlighting them while creating preciousness out of their existence. Jonathan uses many advanced digital technologies as well as hand-crafted skills and traditional metalworking techniques.

Chosen to design the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games medals, Jonathan exhibits internationally. He graduated from the Glasgow School of Art.



Jonathan Boyd uses traditional metalworking, as well as advanced digital, techniques.



Jacqueline Cullen

Trained in visual and performing art before jewelry design, Jacqueline Cullen fell in love with the sensual and natural beauty of Whitby jet, the ebony fossilized mineral.

She is inspired by dramatic acts of nature, skies ripped open by a slash of lightning, volcanoes erupting, a cliff edge left jagged from erosion. The fractures, fissures and crevices inherent to natural jet are hiatuses that fuel her aesthetics and become the source of luxurious cascades of textured gold or glittering diamonds.

Jacqueline is committed to introducing this ancient and sensual material to a contemporary audience. She has received numerous awards and her work is part of several collections in Britain, Switzerland and the USA.

Jacqueline studied Visual and Performing Art, at Brighton University and then Jewelry Design, at Central Saint Martin's, London.



Jacqueline Cullen's jewelry is made from Whitby jet.



Josef Koppmann uses tourmalines and agate in his jewelry.



Josef Koppmann

Josef Koppmann's jewelry is big, bold and imaginative characterized by minimalist, organic shapes, clear-cut lines and matt textured surfaces.

His work bonds traditional goldsmithing techniques and modern design elements in one-of-a-kind pieces, whose symbolism moves consciously outside passing trends.

Shimmery druzy agates, brightly colored tourmalines and rough diamonds are at the center of these clean, well-defined creations whose most striking feature is their sculptural quality and spatial lightness.

Set in intense, bright gold, elevated above the smooth surfaces of the silver, each stone reveals an exciting interplay of light, structure and cut. Clean craftsmanship contributes to the dynamics of each piece, where abstract textures and tactile finishes bond minimalism and innovation.

Joseph studied at the Arts and Crafts College in Vienna.

Ornella Iannuzzi

Ornella Iannuzzi is an award-winning artist jeweler creating mainly one-of-a-kind pieces of high-end jewelry.

Using a wide range of natural and precious materials, her work is characterized by a harmonious composition of colors and textures, with a certain attraction for the unusual.

Her 'everyday-wear' collection called "Les Corallines" is inspired by coral formations. It reflects Ornella's signature and features different varieties of pearls or opals into sophisticated elegant designs.

Having acquired solid skills in design and at the bench from her jewelry studies in France, she explored her creativity at the Royal College of Art in London. In 2014, she won an award from the Goldsmiths' Craft & Design Council.



A ring set with an opal.

Silver and gold jewelry made by Sarah Herriot.

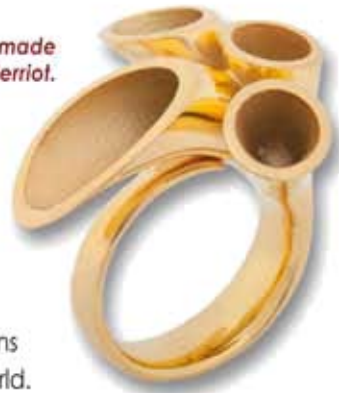
Sarah Herriot

Sarah Herriot is a self-taught designer, which gives her a unique perspective in her approach to her work. Her skill in cutting edge 3D design technology has attracted high praise and awards for the architectural and sculptural quality of the designs.

Her deceptively simple and well-thought designs are stocked by major galleries around the world.

Sarah's intention is to create intelligent designs that bring aesthetic pleasure, as jewelry, but also as objects in their own right. Sarah is very much inspired by the urban environment, adding her own organic interpretation.

She studied computer software design, and has been a full time jeweler designer since 2005.



Heather Woolf

Heather Woolf works with a large range of metals, from silver and gold to titanium and steel. She describes herself as a metalworker at heart and is captivated by metal as a material. Her process begins here, working with each metal to explore its individual characteristics. She uses a process of rigorous experimentation as a basis for her designs, wearable sculptures on a miniature scale.

Heather is drawn to titanium for its qualities of strength and light weight. It is a notoriously difficult metal to work, but she uses these constraints to achieve unique possibilities.

Her work deceives the eye, capturing a sense of movement and fluidity in pieces that are, in fact, wholly static. These pieces seem like fleeting moments captured, as though they have been blown by the wind.

Heather graduated from the Edinburgh College of Art.

Heather Woolf's work features anodized titanium and silver, or gold plated silver.



Kayo Saito

Kayo Saito's work is closely linked to nature and the environment: plants and other organic forms; rustling sounds and swaying movements. Their apparent fragility and delicate structure, combined with their vital energy, always arouse her creativity and fulfill her aesthetic sense.

Through carefully chosen materials and shapes, she creates unusual delicacy and sculptural forms in the shape of precious jewelry.

Her work has been presented in many European high-end galleries and art fairs, including the most prestigious TEFAF Maastricht in Holland with Adrian Sassoon.

Some of her works are also found in both private and public collections.

Kayo studied at Musashino Art University in Tokyo, and graduated from the Royal College of Arts (MA RCA).



Gold jewelry made by Kayo Saito.

Rie Taniguchi works with silver, gold, sometimes copper, enamel and onyx.



Rie Taniguchi

Rie's main interests, aside from the arts, concern the relationship between the environment, wildlife and humanity.

She has always drawn extensively, and images from her childhood still influence her. Folk tales and myths all come into consideration. She creates small expressive characters and places them in scenery...

She recently focused on endangered or under-rated species, hence the rhino and bat creations. Viewers are invited to throw caution to the wind and delve into the sheer beauty of her poetic world.

Japanese born Rie studied Art & Design at the City of London Polytechnic.

Jo Hayes-Ward

Constructing jewelry from small building block elements, Jo Hayes-Ward creates intricate sculptural pieces with an architectural aesthetic. Her award winning designs include simple forms that on close inspection dissolve into a filigree of shimmering cubes.

An important aspect of her designs and research is to harness machine marks and exploit them as an aesthetic. The new Stratus collection takes her signature geometric structures to a lighter, more refined arena. Complex textured and patterned surfaces are framed with diamond edges or sprinkled with a gradient of precious gems.

This, alongside a tacit knowledge of materials and long-established jewelry skills, has enabled Jo to develop her unique signature as a maker of classic, modern pieces, which come alive when worn. Jo graduated from the Royal College of Arts (MA RCA).



Rings set with green and pink tourmalines.

