

Kelvin J Birk

Kelvin J Birk experiments with the intrinsic qualities of materials, consciously disregarding what is traditionally considered valuable. These ideas have led him to crushing and pulverising precious gemstones and re-working the resulting new material. Stone fragments are bonded back together or adhered directly onto a metal structure, allowing the nature of the materials to dictate the final form of the pieces. His methods of construction are unusual and unexpected. Birk says, 'I am creating something different and hopefully beautiful. The value has been shifted from the commodity value to an artistic value.' This concept of 'value' has always played an important role in Birk's provocative work.

Education

MA, Silversmithing, Jewellery and Applied Arts, Sir John Cass,
London Guildhall University

Postgraduate Course and Extended Studies Programme,
Silversmithing, Jewellery and Allied Crafts, Sir John Cass, London
Guildhall University

Goldschmiedegesellenbrief, Staatliche Berufsfachschule für Glas und
Schmuck, Neugablonz, Germany

Awards

Creative8 award and grant for solo exhibition. Clerkenwell Green
Association, London 2006-2007

New Exhibitors Prize, Chelsea Crafts fair - 1999

2nd Prize, The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths - 1996

2nd prize, Guildhall/Jerwood Foundation Jewellery Prize - 1995

3rd Prize, British Jewellery Association

2nd Prize, The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths

Selected Exhibitions

Triple Parade, Biennial for Contemporary Jewellery, HOW Art Museum in Shanghai, China. - 2018-2019

Bloomin' Jewels, Contemporary Applied Arts, London - 2017

New Member Showcase, Contemporary Applied Arts, London - 2016

16 Taiwan International Crafts Competition, touring exhibition, Taiwan and USA - 2015

20th Anniversary Exhibition, Bonhoga ` Gallery, Shetland - 2014-2020

Processes, Mostyn Gallery, Llandudno, Wales - 2012

FlourishRing, Kath Libbert Gallery, Bradford

Showcase – Kelvin J. Birk, Bircham Gallery, Holt

Diamond Jubilee, AJC touring exhibition: Birmingham, London, Glasgow & Edinburgh

5 Precious, touring exhibition, Harley Gallery, Wellbeck, Oriel

Wreccsam Gallery, Wrexham, Hove Museum and Art Gallery - 2010-2011

Rings, Leeds City Art Gallery, Leeds - 2010

Allgäuer Festwoche Kunstausstellung

Art Exhibition, Allgäuer Festwoche, Kempten, Germany

Design Gallery Window, Canary Wharf, London - 2009

Now & Then, Kath Libbert Gallery, Bradford - 2008

Accord, Solo Exhibition, Schädler-Keramik, Liechtenstein

COLLECT, V&A, London, with Cockpit Arts

Brilliantly Birmingham/Decadence, Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, Birmingham - 2007

Creative8, Clerkenwell Green Association, London

Heirlooms 62 rings, ACJ exhibition, St. Botolph's Church, London - 2006

Jewellery Unlimited, Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery, Bristol

New York Gift Fair, New York, USA - 2004

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Craft show, Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA - 2003
London Art Well, The Prince's Trust, London
Hardcore Concrete, RIBA, London - 2002
Contemporary Decorative Art, Sotheby's, London
Nomade, Oslo, Norway - 20001
Eins, Jürgen Prüll, Weiden, Germany
Home Sweet Home, Tactus Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
Dialogue, London Guildhall University, London
Men's Room, White Gallery, Brighton, Sussex

Selected Publications

The guide to Gemstone Settings, Anastasia Young
Silversmithing for Jewelry Makers, Elizabeth Bone - 2012
Mounting and Setting Stones, Sonia Cheadle - 2011
The workbench guide to jewelry techniques, Anastasia Young - 2010
Adorn – New Jewellery, Amanda Mansell - 2008
Concrete Design, Sarah Gaventa -2006
Ceramic: materials for inspirational design, Chris Lefteri - 2004
New British Design 98, New Designers in Business - 1998