**CLAIRE UNDERWOOD**

Claire Underwood has been a jeweller and silversmith for over 25 years. Her designs employ clean, elegant shapes, formed from matt silver or 18ct gold, with contrasting moments of rich colour and texture.

Underwood’s interest in jewellery was awakened by childhood travels to Africa where she encountered the adornment and colourful beadwork of the Maasai people. She translated these impressions into brightly patterned enamel through her studies at Loughborough College of Art and Design, the Royal College of Art, and at Cockpit Arts, where she set up her first workshop.

Over the past 20 years, as a diplomatic spouse, Underwood has lived in Russia, America, India and Thailand. These places have provided inspiration for her work, the designs evolving with each new country. She has captured the rich textures and colours from objects collected on these travels into designs embellished with bright enamel, colourful glass beads and, lately, precious gemstone beads.

Underwood returned to the UK in 2017 and established a new workshop in south London where she continues to develop her jewellery.

**Born**  1967, Bristol

**Education**

1989-91 MA Goldsmithing, Silversmithing, Metalwork and Jewellery, Royal College of Art, London

1986-89 BA (Hons) Silversmithing and Jewellery, Loughborough College of Art and Design

**Awards**

1995 Carroll Foundation Award, Chelsea Crafts Fair

1993 Loan, Princes Youth Trust

Setting Up Grant, Crafts Council

1991 Award for Silversmithing, The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths

**Selected Exhibitions**

2001 Goldsmiths’ Fair, London

In Farbe, Bettina Gallery, Berlin, Germany

Inhorgenta, Munich, Germany

2000 Solo Exhibition, Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh

5th International Exhibition, Velvet Da Vinci, San Francisco, USA

Solo Exhibition, Chic Choc Gallery, Berlin, Germany

Winter Exhibition, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh

1999 The Jewellery Show, Hugo Barclay, Brighton

1998 Blue Horizons, Coombe Farm Gallery, Devon

Fired Metal, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh

1996 Fahrenheit ’96 Solid.Liquid.Solid, Kirkland Arts Centre, Washington DC, USA

Solo Exhibition, The Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow

Metalanguage (solo), Barbican centre, London

1994 New Faces, Crafts Council Shop, V&A Museum, London

Silver Works Exhibition, Countrywork Gallery, Wales

1993-98 Chelsea Crafts Fair

**Selected Publications**

1992 The Art and Craft of Jewellery, Janet Fitch