

Jewellery

FOCUS

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Creative flair



This month, Janet Fitch takes a look at some of the imaginative jewellery creations displayed at the recent art- and craft- focused exhibitions that have taken place across the UK

Since we're all in the festive season up to our ears, I have decided to leave the subject alone and instead to share with you the rather arty highlights of the past month.

Big art fairs like Frieze seem to have dominated the capital's social scene, but the one I enjoyed most was the Pavilion of Art and Design in Berkeley Square, London, with leading international art and design dealers displaying works of the 20th century and contemporary periods.

Of special interest were three fascinating stands with amazing jewellery by artists, who I did not know had ever designed and made jewellery, and by iconic 20th century jewellery designers. These pieces are investments as well as being decorative, and are a huge source of inspiration for modern jewellery design, and encourage us to think of jewellery as wearable sculptures.

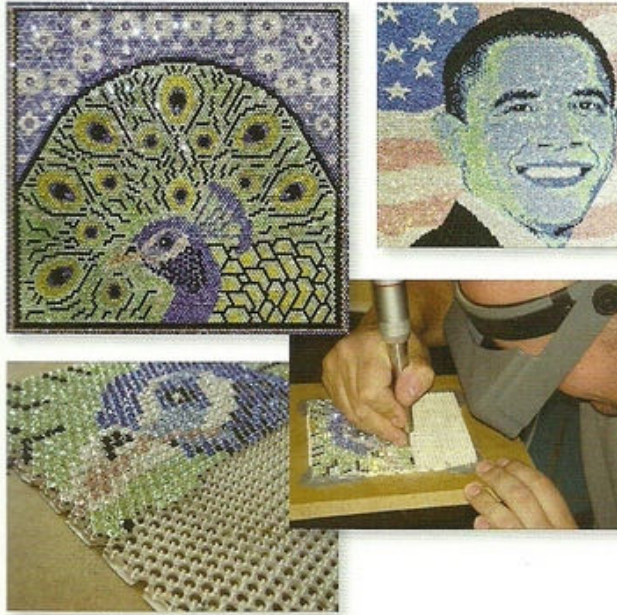
Louisa Guinness's gallery works with artists who sculpt and paint, and invites them to design jewellery, so she shows work by the likes of Anish Kapoor (now the subject of a major exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts), Sam Taylor-Wood and Antony Gormley. She also has vintage pieces by artists like Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali and Louise Bourgeois (www.louisaguinnessgallery.com). ▽



Didier Antiques sells pieces by post-war artists like Calder, Eduardo Paolozzi, and Robert Lee Morris (www.didierantiques.com). ▴ 21st Century Fine Jewels specialises in jewellery by great 20th century designers like Catherine Noll and the American designer Marilyn Cooperman whose influence on much of today's jewellery is fascinating to see (www.21stcenturyjewels.com). ▽

And at an exhibition of *The Dead*, new works by Damien Hirst in Bond Street – limited edition prints of jewel coloured skulls published by Other Criteria and Paul Stolper – I saw for the first time Damien Hirst's gold or silver charm bracelets that feature 25 different casts of pills, a recurring theme of his, in limited editions of 50. The gold bracelet is already sold out, but the silver version is yours for £10,500.00 (www.othercriteria.com). ▷





Platform Showcase, the venue in the heart of Hatton Garden that supports and promotes the British jewellery trade, held a lively evening for their exhibition of fashion jewellery and Kickstart, supported by the BJA, whose energetic manager of PR, marketing and exports Lindsey Straughton was there. Here too there was art, with sparkling pictures in finely crafted mosaics of gemstones, like the 'Pride of Peacock' or 'A New Beginning' (a portrait of President Obama), by **Gemstone Creative** (www.gemstonecreative.com). △

Exhibiting there was Sonal Talgeri-Bhaskaran, who bravely decided to give up her career as a banker with Goldman Sachs to pursue a career in jewellery design. Her company, **Eastern Mystic**, was launched in January 2009 with great success. Her jewellery reflects her Indian background in flattering and contemporary statement pieces which she designs and makes herself using gemstones, fairtrade gold vermeil, silver and 18ct gold (www.eastermystic.com). ▽



Origin is the London Craft Fair held every year to promote and sell contemporary craft, which includes a strong selection of jewellery. The estimated sales total at the close of the fair was £1.5 million, showing that there is a lot of public interest in the creative arts. Evidently popular was the handmade jewellery of **Juan Carlos Gutierrez**, who is based in Barcelona. His show-stopping pieces – multi-layered necklaces, head and hand coverings, bracelets and fluid dangling earrings – are made of his own version of silver mesh, white or with an antique finish, made by fusing silver and bronze (www.jcgutierrezbcn.com). △

To end on a festive note, I must admit to having treated myself at the tempting Spirit of Christmas Fair to the 'Splat' bangle I had seen at IJL earlier this year, where it won an award for 'overall originality and inspirational craftsmanship' for designer **Lucy Quartermaine** (www.lucyqdesigns.co.uk). ▽

