

## From gems to contemporary jewellery creations: Isaac Julien, Nicole Wermers and Catherine Yass

The unveiling of the breathtaking Ostro Stone to the world for the first time is being marked by three new pieces of wearable art created by contemporary artists using topaz also donated by Maurice Ostro OBE through the Outset Contemporary Art Fund, founded by Candida Gertler OBE.

Outset-supported contemporary artists Isaac Julien, Nicole Wermers and Catherine Yass have been commissioned to create three new pieces of contemporary jewellery, continuing the tradition of wearable art initiated by Calder. Outset Production Fund Partner Maurice Ostro OBE has donated blue topaz gems to the artists. Each has transformed this new medium in a unique way that exemplifies the artists' expressive energy. The Ostro Fayre Share Foundation, Outset and Louisa Guinness Gallery are delighted to support artistic creations of jewellery by contemporary artists and enable the realisation of their visions of wearable art.

## From gems to wearable art: Alexander Calder's pioneering jewellery

In presenting their new creations, artists Isaac Julien, Nicole Wermers and Catherine Yass are paying homage to Alexander Calder, a pioneer figure within the heritage of transforming nature's gifts into new forms of wearable art. A pioneer figure within the heritage of transforming nature's gifts into artist-made jewellery, Alexander Calder (b.1898) created earrings, bracelets, headdresses, necklaces and brooches that were deeply unconventional in their time, and retain their aesthetic relevance today.

Presented by Louisa Guinness, The Boldness of Calder marks the first exhibition in the UK of Alexander Calder's jewellery work, with preeminent pieces shown in collaboration with the Calder Foundation.

On the occasion of the celebration at the Natural History Museum Louisa Guinness Gallery collaborates with Bosse & Baum to create a jewellery-specific performance from the artist Janine Harrington. Performers will be wearing key Calder works and costumes designed by Elise Overland.

"Like true vessels of Calder's artistic manifesto, the women who wore his jewellery were some of the most forward thinking and unconventional of their time", says Louisa Guinness "and this spirit endures".



## O S T R O FAYRE SHARE FOUNDATION

Short text about the Ostro Fayre Share Foundation Soluptae rovideliam equasp ellaccu llescidus, quia vellanda num eliquas autendam fuga. Nam rem hitae lant. Alis mos ma volendu cidendel ilis conectem hictates aut laniscit quam consequi velenim inulla si ariate nonseque vite voloreped untur? Nam rem hitae lant. Alis mos ma volendu cidendel ilis conectem hictates aut laniscit quam consequi velenim inulla si ariate nonseque vite voloreped untur?

## LOUISA GUINNESS GALLERY

### BOSSE & BAUM

Louisa Guinness Gallery works with today's leading contemporary artists to create jewellery as well as collecting and dealing in works by 20th century master artists. Established in 2003, Louisa Guinness Gallery has since worked on over 18 separate projects with leading contemporary artists, including Peter Blake, Marc Quinn and Anish Kapoor.

The Boldness of Calder runs 27 Sept – 5 Nov  
at 45 Conduit Street, London.  
[louisaguinnessgallery.com](http://louisaguinnessgallery.com)  
[#WearCalder](https://twitter.com/LouisaGuinness)

## outset.

Outset Contemporary Art Fund, co-founded by Candida Gertler in 2003, is an international philanthropic organisation recognised for its pioneering energy in supporting new art and a new generation of artists. Outset connects imagination and impact with creative funding solutions for contemporary art with patronage at its core.  
[@OutsetArt](http://outset.org.uk)

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# INTERPRETING NATURE'S GIFTS

from Gems to Wearable Art



## Tonight's Timings

19:50

Performance – Janine Harrington

20:30

Speeches – Sir Michael Dixon, Maurice Ostro OBE,  
Louisa Guinness, Candida Gertler OBE

20:45

Unveiling and Performance – Daphne Guinness



## Picture of Maurice

### Nature's gifts: Gemstones and the Mineralogy collection at the Natural History Museum

One of the most coveted gemstones in the world, the fabulous 9,381-carat Ostro Stone enters the mineral collections of the Natural History Museum thanks to the generosity of philanthropist Maurice Ostro OBE.

The flawless 9,381 carat gem is the world's largest faceted intense blue topaz. Discovered in Minas Gerais, Brazil it has been locked away in vaults for the last three decades.



#### Max Ostro

Adventurer and explorer Max Ostro, Maurice's father, overcame extraordinary challenges in his search for remarkable gemstones, risking malaria, insects, snakes and even deadly piranha fish. However defeating seemingly insurmountable obstacles was nothing new to him. He cheated death at the hands of the Nazis on multiple occasions, escaping a slave labour camp and trips to Treblinka and Auschwitz death camps and even surviving for weeks buried in a grave during the worst of the Polish winter to avoid almost certain capture.

When Max Ostro passed away in 2010, his son Maurice decided to use Max's gemstone collection and his company to help support various philanthropic activities. Tonight we

celebrate the unveiling of this remarkable stone to be housed in the world's leading natural history museum to educate and give pleasure to millions of visitors. At the same time we celebrate the incredible beauty of nature's gifts and how they can inspire artists to create wearable art using their own artistic vision.

Maurice hopes the Ostro Stone will inspire visitors to the Natural History Museum to look at nature's gifts in a new way. For Maurice the gem is also an inspiration to him – and he hopes others – of how business can be leveraged for charity and philanthropy for the benefit of wider society and the enrichment of culture.

© David Bailey



#### Isaac Julien, *Stones against Diamonds*

My most recent series of work, *Stones Against Diamonds*, is a poetic meditation on the oeuvre of the Italian-born Brazilian architect Lina Bo Bardi. In a letter to her husband Pietro Bo Bardi, she recollects some of her childhood memories and explains how her love for semi-precious stones developed from a habit of gathering things and that her first "great passion was a blue cameo that shone like dusk."

*Stones Against Diamonds* is shot in Iceland's ice caves as part of Vatnajökull Glacier. Inspired by the textures and colours I found there, I decided to create a collection of jewelry that mirrors the features of this very environment and nature's architecture. For the necklace and the ring we produced two topaz stones set in two different designs of organic and embossed textures that are also found in my film *Stones Against Diamonds*. For this project I worked with the Goldsmiths Centre's jewellery maker Paul York. .

ISAAC JULIEN (b. 1960, London) is a Turner prize nominated artist, photographer and filmmaker. He has pioneered a form of multi-screen installations, including light-boxes and photographic works with Western Union. Julien participated in the 56th Biennale di Venezia (2015).



#### Catherine Yass, *Blue pulse necklace*

"I was transfixed by the way light travels through the rough cut blue topaz stones. It catches in the fissures and bounces through angles and across planes. This interaction has been the guide for the necklaces, using one uniquely fissured stone in each. It has been fascinating to enter new territory and work with new people and new skills."

CATHERINE YASS (b. 1963, London) trained at the Slade School of Art, London; the Hochschule der Kunst, Berlin; and Goldsmiths College, London. In 2002, Yass was shortlisted for the Turner Prize.



#### Nicole Wermers, *Pimple ring*

The Pimple Ring is a cocktail ring, a jewellery category that originated in the 1920s relating to the prohibition. The idea behind the design was to shape large topaz stones into perfect spheres only to interrupt the colour, surface and shape of the topaz by a cheeky amethyst growth.

NICOLE WERMERS (b. 1971, Germany) graduated from Hochschule für bildende Künste, Hamburg, Germany before completing her MA in Fine Art at Central St. Martins College of Art and Design, London, in 1999. She was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 2015.