

LOUISA GUINNESS GALLERY

ARTIST'S JEWELLERY

NEW WORKS BY:

NIC FIDDIAN GREEN
SUE WEBSTER
TARKA KINGS

DAVID SHRIGLEY
CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON ROYDS
ROLF SACHS

Louisa Guinness Gallery is pleased to present a group exhibition of new works by Tarka Kings, Sue Webster, David Shrigley, Christopher Thompson Royds, Nic Fiddian Green and Rolf Sachs opening Friday 8th October (Please also see the end of this press release for a personal message from Louisa).

Thrilled to finally open our doors and welcome our collectors, we present the culmination of work by some new gallery artists from a broad spectrum of styles; several turning their hands to jewellery for the first time. True to LGG's mantra, each work is presented as a complete piece in itself, presented as stand-alone sculpture. These small jewels double as art pieces to wear and art pieces to view.

This selection of recent artist jewellery weaves connections that vary from the quiet and contemplative to the playful and irreverent. Finding common ground in their intention, each work has been created with intimacy in mind, whether it be in the act of creating or in its dual function as adornment and small sculpture.



Tarka Kings, *Unstrung Mandolin*, Pendant

Tarka Kings

Created in collaboration with Louisa Guinness Gallery, well known for her exquisite draftsmanship and detailed drawings, Tarka Kings' *Unstrung Mandolin* pendant is a meditation on the silence and stillness of her usually musical house in the first few months of lockdown. Rendered in 18k gold, and artfully assembled, the heart of the instrument delicately spins, a whimsical detail that evokes the feeling of a music box. This project was provoked by a response to a Portrait exhibition at Chatsworth House where Kings chose to present her portrait of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire in a small gold framed drawing, serving as a pendant. With the taste for jewellery whetted, she developed new ideas over the next 18 months of lockdown, working closely with the gallery and with design help from her friend, Susanne Kapoor. She presents the jewellery in tiny stage-like rooms, suspended on the wall, made of intricately cut paper designs and theatrical intrigue.

'The time, care and detail that has gone into this project cannot be underestimated. Tarka seeks perfection, which I think she has achieved. It's been a joy to work with her on this and I feel the time and love she has put into her paper cut out mini stage to present these little treasures in, reflects her determination to achieve only the very best' - Louisa Guinness



Sue Webster, *Crawling Spider*, Bracelet

Sue Webster

Like King, Sue Webster's *Spider Series* shares a response to the first few months of lockdown. Armed with a DIY kit of toothpicks, a candle, lighter and a pin, she describes a domestic process of welding wax models of spiders while her new-born baby *Spider* slept. Later, her waxes were cast into a silver necklace, bracelet, rings and webs. Conceived as chasing each other around the body, her series

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Rolf Sachs *Unchained*, Necklace

balances Webster's core punk sensibility with the domesticity of her surroundings - at home on a neck or scurrying on a shelf.

'I was confined in a sort of prison, but every artist imprisons themselves. I've always made something out of nothing. Give me some toothpicks and I'll make my Matchstick Cathedral' - Sue Webster

Rolf Sachs

Rolf Sachs' *Unchained*, is a work that fits into his internationally renowned multidisciplinary practice with ease. Reflecting an underlying philosophy which draws upon collective memory, the chain plays upon our perception of reality. Created with ready-made fastenings in mischievous combinations of silver and vermeil, there are 4 hidden 18ct gold units, the wearer is unaware of which components these are, and must play Rolf's game to determine which is which. Readily adjustable to the wearer's specification, *Unchained* is a fitting addition to Sachs desire to play with form and function. At a full length of 150cm it can be divided up as the wearer desires into different length necklaces, chokers, belts or bracelets.

'Rolf's brain is exploding with creativity and he is quick to respond to a jewellery challenge. This work is typical of his genius, practicality and sense of humour in equal measures'. - Louisa Guinness

David Shrigley



David Shrigley, *Companion*, Pendant

British art staple David Shrigley's *Companion pendants* are a response to a self-imposed challenge of scale. Maintaining the tactility of his fingerprints by forming wax models cast in silver and gold, he has created an array of unique figures that progressively get smaller and smaller. Each is housed in a custom box for independent display with a custom bean bag insert. With an ability to be mixed and matched, these little companions maintain his signature playful energy, at ease on a neck or resting on their custom bean bag pillow.

'I enjoy the process of creating something with your hands, especially when working with wax. It is a process that allows you to retain everything, including my fingerprints - whatever you see is what it really is' - David Shrigley

Nic Fiddian Green



Nic Fiddian Green, *Horse Head Cup*, Pendant

Similarly, acclaimed sculptor Nic Fiddian Green's pendants share their process with both Webster and Shrigley. Following on from the extremely successful exhibition in 2016, when collaborating with the gallery NFG was introduced to working in precious metal and gemstones. Since then, Fiddian Green has continued to make the ever popular 'Horse at Water' small enough to wear around the neck. Working with wax, Fiddian Green's pendants, cast in both 18ct gold and silver, are imbued with the same sense of nobility and life as his large-scale work. Both jewel and sculpture, when the work is not being worn, it rests in a dedicated stand.

' Many people ask if the jewellery influences the artwork or the other way round. In Nic's case, I was very happy to introduce him to the world of precious metals and gemstones where his jewellery has certainly flourished and his artworks have wandered' - Louisa Guinness

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Christopher Thompson Royds,
Against Nature, Buttercup
Sculpture

Christopher Thompson Royds

Christopher Thompson Royds' practice is truly one of both sculpture and jewel. His 18k gold sculptures are a continuation of his *Against*

Nature series and immortalize the increasingly threatened flowers found in hedgerows and verges. With the ability to pluck them from their stems, his sculptures morph into earrings, pendants and pins, a process that harkens back to the act of picking wildflowers on a country walk in Summer.

Having worked with the gallery since 2018, CTR's work speaks of the unwavering versatility of creation despite constraints. Made by his own hand, CTR cuts and blends the metal into fine sculptures to be suspended on the body or placed on their own bespoke pedestal. Each piece speaks to the relevance of artist jewels as an instrument of working through and finding joy in a contemporary world that is ever changing and ever challenging.

"I am thrilled to have this new work by Christopher - it follows on from his painted jewels leading us down a new botanical path" -Louisa Guinness.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

TARKA KINGS

Tarka Kings was born in London in 1961, and studied at the Royal Academy schools for both BA and MA. She spent part of her childhood in the American Midwest. Kings is best known as a draughtsman, for her closely observed, intimate drawings, built of layers of subtle detailed marks. In the past 5 years she has expanded her practice to include finely cut paper and fabric to enable her to keep exploring different ways of making images.

ROLF SACHS

Rolf Sachs was born in Switzerland in 1955. After studying in the US and the UK in the late 80's, Sachs moved to London in 1994 to focus on his artistic career. In 2017 Sachs moved to Rome and set up a new studio. He is recognised for his distinctive, conceptual approach, which he applies across a multitude of mediums, ranging from sculpture, object, light, installation and photography through to architectural projects and set design for opera and ballet. The common thread that runs through his multi-disciplinary work is his passion for experimentation and invention, which drives him to challenge the applications of materials, processes and everyday objects. His work has been showcased internationally in art galleries and museums.

DAVID SHRIGLEY

David Shrigley was born in 1968 and grew up in Leicester. He studied at Glasgow School of Art from 1988-91. His work encompasses many media including drawing, painting, sculpture, animation, performance and music and has been exhibited in many different countries. In 2013 he was shortlisted for both the Turner Prize and was awarded the 2016 Fourth Plinth commission for Trafalgar Square. He was awarded the OBE in 2020 for services to the visual arts.

SUE WEBSTER

Sue Webster is an artist who established her reputation in the mid-1990s, working with her then-partner of 25 years, Tim Noble. Influenced in part by the philosophy of British Punk, to make something from nothing became an important part of their DIY signature approach. Webster has recently completed her second visual biography *I Was a Teenage Banshee – My Life Through Siouxsie and the Banshees*. A Künstlerroman (artist's coming of age novel). It combines personal memoir with a visual narrative of her evolution as an artist. Tim Noble and Sue Webster first worked with this gallery in 2017 making the super popular '*Fucking Beautiful*' necklaces and bracelets. She currently lives and works in London and has a 6-month-old baby boy called 'Spider'.

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NIC FIDDIAN GREEN

Born in Hampshire in 1963, Nic Fiddian Green is arguably Britain's best known living sculptor. Famous as an innovative and equestrian sculptor, Fiddian Green has worked on a monumental scale making sculptures of horse's heads (as can be seen at Marble Arch, 33ft) to miniature pieces. His first, sell out

show with Louisa Guinness Gallery (London) in 2016 presented unique pieces carved in lapis lazuli or chrysoprase alongside minute castings in 18ct gold to be suspended around the neck. Nic graduated with a BA in Sculpture from Wimbledon College of Art, London and an MA at Central St Martins College of Art with a focus on Lost Wax Casting.

CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON ROYDS

Born in London in 1978, Christopher Thompson Royds graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2010 with a masters in goldsmithing, silversmithing, metalwork & jewellery. Well known for cutting sheet metal and painting it with flowers, TR has developed his signature style over the years. This work is a departure from the painted flowers and moves closer to stand alone small sculpture. He has exhibited widely from Tokyo and Munich to London. His work is represented by Galerie Marzee, Nijmegen, and Louisa Guinness Gallery, London. Since 2010 he has been a visiting lecturer at the Royal College of Art, London.

ABOUT LOUISA GUINNESS GALLERY

Louisa Guinness Gallery works with today's leading sculptors and painters to create jewellery as well as collecting and dealing in works by master artists. Starting its journey in 2003, the gallery has collaborated with 25 contemporary artists including Anish Kapoor, Mariko Mori, Ed Ruscha, Gavin Turk, Yinka Shonibare and Annie Morris to create artist-made jewellery in small or unique editions to the highest standard, mostly handmade by our team of experts in London or the artist's studio. Concurrently the Louisa Guinness Gallery has built-up an impressive collection of historic jewellery, including pieces by Calder, Pol Bury, Max Ernst, Lucio Fontana, Pablo Picasso and Man Ray.

A NOTE TO PRESS (AND OUR CUSTOMERS)

A personal note from Louisa and something I think needs addressing.

I have noticed recently a slight backlash against prices of handmade objects. These pieces are always more expensive than machine made - and far nicer. I thought it might be interesting to publish this chart of the gold price. Since my gallery opened in 2002, the gold price has gone from \$290/oz to almost £2000/oz in July of this year. It has come off a bit but it still hovers around these levels depending on global economic factors.



USD

Data as of 4 October, 2021

Sources: FastMarkets, ICE Benchmark Administration, Thomson Reuters, World Gold Council;

Gold Prices, Courtesy of Gold Hub, www.gold.org

Not only have raw materials increased but labour costs have too. There are less skilled workers in London now as a result of many people retiring and not coming back to work post covid. The jewellery market is

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also growing massively so demand is very strong. It is very difficult to have things made in London anymore due to costs and time constraints. The pandemic taught us to buy less and to buy better (didn't it?). We do our best to keep prices constant but customers must understand that they have to pay for quality. The world has not stayed still. Prices must increase.

We do our best to support our local industry, we understand when costs increase. Please consider this.

NOTE TO EDITORS

For any press enquiries or for high resolution images, please contact
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