

## HELGE LARSEN & DARANI LEWERS

*For more than 40 years, Helge Larsen and Darani Lewers have worked in collaboration, combining expert craftsmanship and innovation to create unique contemporary jewellery. Abstract shapes are arranged with an architectural clarity, many of the pieces evoking a sculptural quality in contrast to the familiar, organic human form which they are designed to adorn. Their designs reveal a desire to fuse historical references with contemporary contexts. Early works by the duo explored the Australian landscape, imparting a sense of familiarity whilst more recent works explore the upheaval and haphazard visual experience of travel, as inspired by travels to Asia, Syria and Europe. The use of found objects makes reference to regional traditions found in architecture and objects of antiquity. Sterling silver is combined with a variety of materials including pebbles, bone, shell, ceramic shards, precious stones and enamel paint.*

*Helge and Darani have held over sixty exhibitions across Australia, Europe and the USA, achieving international recognition as innovative silversmiths and jewellers. Their work is represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia and all Australian state galleries, as well as collections in Europe and Asia. In 1986, the National Gallery of Victoria staged a retrospective of their work that toured Australia and Europe and, in 2002, the Manly Art Gallery and Museum mounted a survey exhibition that covered the period since 1986. They have long played an active role in the arts in Australia and both have received the honorary degree of Doctor of Visual Arts from the University of Sydney. Darani received an Order of Australia in 1982 and Helge received the Australia Council Emeritus Award in 1999.*

### BIOGRAPHY

#### Helge Larsen

- 1962-74 Senior Instructor, Department of Industrial Arts, University of NSW, Sydney
- 1972 Artist's studio, Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
- 1974 Participant, International Steel Symposium, Austria; "Schmuck aus Stahl" Exhibition, European Tour
- 1975 Visiting Professor, Sommer Akademie Bildende Kunst, Salzburg, Austria
- 1977 Head of Department, Jewellery and Silversmithing Department, Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney
- 1980 Curator, "Object to Human Scale" Exhibition, Japan and South East Asia  
Participant International Tin Symposium, Vienna, Austria
- 1984 Curator, "Cross Currents" Jewellery exhibition from Holland, Germany, Britain and Australia
- 1988 Participant, International Master Workshop Symposium Silversmithing, Canberra
- 1990-7 Associate Professor, University of Sydney
- 1991 Curator, "Contemporary Jewellery in Australia & Japan", Kyoto
- 1991-94 Head of School, Sydney College of the Arts
- 1996 Artist's Studio, Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris
- 1997 Australia Council residency, Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris  
Associate Professor, Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney
- 1999 Received Emeritus Award, Visual Arts Craft Fund, Australia Council
- 2007 Awarded Honourary Doctorate of Visual Arts, University of Sydney

#### Darani Lewers

- 1972 Artist's studio, Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
- 1976-80 Chairperson, Crafts Board, Australia Council
- 1981 Gift of family home to Penrith Council for Regional Art Gallery
- 1981-90 Trustee, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
- 1982-86 Member of Artworks Advisory Committee, Parliament House, Canberra
- 1982 Appointed a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia
- 1983-86 Jointly co-ordinated and participated in "Worn Issues" touring exhibition
- 1994 Awarded Fellowship, Visual Arts/Craft Board, Australia Council
- 1995 Curator, Niina Ots Retrospective Touring Exhibition of Jewellery
- 1996 Artist's Studio, Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
- 2007 Awarded Honourary Doctorate of Visual Arts, University of Sydney

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 "Urban references", Beaver Galleries, Canberra

- 2007 Design Forum Finland, Helsinki  
2006 Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, Riga, Latvia  
2002-04 "Larsen and Lewers: A survey 1986 - 2002", Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney, and touring  
2002 Embassy of Australia, Washington D.C., USA  
2000 Museet pa Koldinghus, Kolding, Denmark  
Danish Museum of Decorative Arts, Copenhagen, Denmark  
1999 "Recent Jewellery", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
1998 Museum of Applied Arts, Tallinn, Estonia  
Sherman Galleries, Sydney  
1997 Australian Embassy, Paris, France  
1996 Galerie Tactus Copenhagen, Denmark  
1995 Sherman Galleries, Sydney  
1992 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne  
1990 Solander Gallery, Canberra  
1989 Irving Sculpture Gallery, Sydney  
1988 "Helge Larsen and Darani Lewers - A Retrospective, Jewellery" - European Tour to Schmuck Museum, Pforzheim, Germany and Galerie am Graben, Vienna, Austria  
1986-88 "Helge Larsen and Darani Lewers - A Retrospective, Jewellery, Hollow-ware & Sculpture", Touring Australia, organised by the National Gallery of Victoria  
1976 Galerie am Graben, Vienna, Austria  
Realities Gallery, Melbourne  
1975 Galerie Traklhaus, Salzburg, Austria  
1974 Bonython Gallery, Sydney  
1973 Museum of Decorative Arts, Copenhagen, Denmark  
1971 Macquarie Galleries, Canberra  
1970 Gallery A, Melbourne  
1967 Gallery A, Sydney  
Macquarie Galleries, Canberra  
1966 Von Bertough Galleries, Newcastle, NSW  
1964 Johnstone Gallery, Brisbane  
1963 Von Bertough Galleries, Newcastle, NSW  
1962 Bonython Gallery, Adelaide  
1961 Macquarie Gallery, Sydney

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2006 Chatelaine Project, Design Museum, Helsinki, Finland  
2004 "Design Down Under", South Shore Art Centre, Massachusetts, USA  
2002 "South Coast", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
"Material Culture, Aspects of Contemporary Australian Craft and Design." National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
2000 "Schmuck", Museum for Gestaltung, Zurich, Switzerland  
1999 "Contemporary Australian Craft", Powerhouse Museum travelling exhibition, Japan and Australia  
1993-94 "Art of Adornment", South East Asian Tour  
1989 "Ornamenta 1", Pforzheim 1989, International Contemporary Jewellery, Germany  
1984 "Contemporary Jewellery", National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan  
1980 "Jewellery International 1900-1980", Kunsterhaus, Vienna, Austria  
1967 "Expo '67 World Exhibition", Montreal, Canada  
1961 "International Exhibitions of Modern Jewellery", Goldsmiths Hall and Victoria & Albert Museum, London

#### AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 1994-98 Liturgical silverware, Cabrini Hospital Chapel  
1992 Ceremonial Mace for University of Western Sydney  
1990 Liturgical silverware, St James Church, Sydney  
1989 Ceremonial mace for University of Technology, Sydney  
1988 Suspended light fitting, New Parliament House, Canberra (with Maureen Cahill)

- 1984-92 Myer Performing Arts Award, Myer Foundation, Melbourne  
1974 Salomonsen Award D.K.  
1966 7 liturgical pieces, Wentworth Memorial Church, Sydney

#### PUBLICATIONS

- 2009 "Large worlds in concentrated works", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 26 February  
1998 "Rings for your fingers...", Meredith Hinchliffe, *Canberra Times*, 5 June  
"Multiple Journeys in Metal", Bob Thomson, *Object Magazine*  
*Contemporary Jewellery in Australia & New Zealand*, Patricia Anderson, Craftsman House, North Ryde, NSW  
1997 *Masters of their Craft: Clay, Glass, Metal, Fibre, Wood*, Norris Ioannou  
1995 *Oz arts: Jewellery as a Message - recent work by Larsen & Lewers*, Grace Cochrane, London  
"Jewellery by Larsen & Lewers", Liz Land, *Craft Arts International*  
1992 *Twentieth Century Jewellery*, Barbara Cartlidge, Harry N Abrams, NY  
*The Crafts Movement in Australia: A History*, Grace Cochrane, NSW University Press, Sydney  
"The Crafts in Crisis", Darani Lewers, *Art Monthly*, no.47, March  
1989 "Ornamenta 1", International Schmuckkunst, (ed) Erhoff et al.  
1988 *The Australian Experience 1977-1987*, Patricia Anderson, Millenium Books, Newton, NSW  
1987 *Craft Arts Magazine*, Judith O'Callaghan, February  
1986 *Helge Larsen & Darani Lewers: A Retrospective*, National Gallery of Victoria  
*Craft Australia Yearbook*, Helge Larsen  
1985 "Jewellery", Helge Larsen, *Craft Arts*, Jan-March  
1982 *Australian Decorative Arts in the Australian National Gallery*, John McPhee  
1976 *Contemporary Jewellery: A Critical Assessment 1945-1975*, Ralph Turner  
1974 *Crafts of Australia*, Crafts Council of Australia  
1973 *12 Australian Craftsmen*, Patricia Thompson  
1972 *The Artists Craftsman in Australia*, Botrell & Stacey  
1968 *Architecture in Australia*, Tom Heath

#### REPRESENTED

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth; Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston; University of NSW, Sydney; City of Hamilton Art Gallery, Victoria; MIM Holdings, Brisbane; Museum of Decorative Arts, Vienna, Austria; Museum of Decorative Arts, Prague, Czech Republic; Museum of Decorative Arts, Copenhagen, Denmark; Schmuck Museum, Pforzheim, Germany; Wuppertal Uhren Museum, Germany; Australian Embassy, Tokyo, Japan; Museum of Applied Art, Tallinn, Estonia; Museet pa Koldinghus, Kolding, Denmark