

MELANIE KATSALIDIS

Melanie Katsalidis completed her Bachelor of Fine Art in Gold and Silversmithing at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University in 2003. A key element of Melanie's designs is the incorporation of movement achieved by using fluid forms and clean geometric shapes as major components. Melanie uses a range of materials from freshwater pearls to custom cut gems in her striking designs. Recently, she has been on a mission to elevate the status of the opal. As Melanie says "Australia has the world's best opal and I am proud to champion local and ethically mined gems produced in this ancient land." Her pieces are contemporary in style yet classic in their combination of materials and simple, sophisticated design. "My jewellery is about finding beauty in pure geometry and form. I enjoy reducing forms to their essence and finding the elegance in this. Strong lines and bold structures become wearable, and there is always an element of precision and balance in my pieces. I find the idea that my work will take on new meanings and histories of the wearer very rewarding."

Melanie is among the 1000 jewellers from across the world featured in the exclusive and ground-breaking publication, *The Compendium Finale of Contemporary Jewellers Volumes 1 & 2*, released by Darling Publications in Germany, 2008; placing her amongst the world's finest jewellers. Melanie Katsalidis has exhibited extensively in Melbourne, Sydney and New Zealand. She is the director and founder of *Pieces of Eight* which she established in 2005. She has exhibited widely, and in 2014 collaborated with Melbourne fashion label *Alpha60* on an exhibition using Australian opals which culminated in an exhibition entitled *UPALA*, and in 2016 collaborated with New York based sculptor *Phillip Low* on *CHROMA*. In 2017 she presented *NEO Cuts* at *Pieces of Eight*.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1979 Born, Melbourne
- 1999-01 Advisory Committee, Visible Art Foundation, Melbourne
- 2000 Bachelor of Arts, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne
- 2003 Bachelor of Fine Art (Gold and Silversmithing), Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Melbourne
- 2007 Selection committee, Diana Morgan private donation to Museum of Decorative Arts, Paris, France
- 2009 Judge, the Design Institute of Australia's Student Design Award (jewellery category) as part of Design Ex 2009
- 2008-14 Selection panel for Fresh, Craft Victoria
- 2005-19 Director and head curator at Pieces of Eight gallery and workshop, Melbourne.

EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 "C O V E T : Contemporary Jewellery", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Freshly Shucked", Pieces of Eight, Melbourne
- 2017 "NEO Cuts", Pieces of Eight, Melbourne
- 2018 "Melanie Katsalidis" for Design Canberra, Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2016 "CROMA", Pieces of Eight, Melbourne
- 2008 "Pieces of Eight: The Workshop Group", Sturt Gallery, Mittagong, NSW; travelled to Inform Contemporary Jewellery, Christchurch, New Zealand
"Twice Bitten", Pieces of Eight, Melbourne
"Diana: A Celebration", Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
- 2007 "Pieces of Eight Showcase Exhibition", Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
- 2006 "Expeditions", Metalab, Sydney
"50 Necklaces", Inform, New Zealand
- 2005 "Self Made Man", Spacement Gallery, Melbourne
- 2004 "En Route", Woodbine Art Gallery, Malmesbury, Vic
"Graduate Metal 9", First Site Gallery, RMIT, Melbourne
- 2003 "Ad aspera per aspera", Gold and Treasury Museum, Melbourne
"Shelf Life", First Site Gallery, RMIT, Melbourne
"The Crucible", Axiom Gallery, Melbourne
- 2002 "Silverbeet", Axiom Gallery, Melbourne
- 2001 "Technofetish", Artspace, RMIT, Melbourne
"From The Same Flame", Faculty Gallery, RMIT, Melbourne
- 1996 "Primary Works", Spring Street, Melbourne