

LESLIE MATTHEWS

Leslie Matthews creates contemporary jewellery and small sculptural objects that explore the intimacy of scale and interconnecting sensory experiences. The imagery that Leslie Matthews references in her jewellery relates to anatomical structures as well as the flora and fauna that surround her; "I'm drawn to the imperfections, the diverging patterns of organic imagery, a constant reference point, the randomness naturally occurring, a reminder of the brilliance and the beauty and the decay of our surrounds." Leslie predominantly works with sterling silver and bronze, using fabrication, metalsmithing and lost wax casting techniques in the creation of her pieces. More recently, she has been using unglazed porcelain, lightly carving into the surface to create textures which reference the coastal dunescape of South Australia. In her sterling silver works she embosses the surface with delicate woven cloths, "capturing a symbolic trace of the ephemeral fabric of the everyday". The soft white finish on the silver is achieved through brushing pumice powder, which both contrasts and compliments the deep blue black on the oxidised pieces.

Leslie holds a Bachelor of Design (Jewellery and Metalsmithing) and a Master of Visual Arts (Research) from the University of South Australia. She has been a practicing contemporary jeweller and object maker for 25 years and has exhibited regularly in group and solo shows, locally, nationally and internationally.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1982-5 Bachelor of Design (Jewellery and Metalsmithing), School of Design, University of South Australia
- 1993 Residency, Barcelona, Spain
- 1998 Japan/South Australia Cultural Exchange Program
- 2001-6 Lecturer, Jewellery and Metal Studio, School of Art, Architecture and Design, University of South Australia
- 2004-6 Master of Visual Arts (Research), School of Art, Architecture and Design, University of South Australia
- 2005 Artist/Scholar in Residence, Otago Polytechnic, School of Art, Dunedin, New Zealand
- 2006 Residency, The British School at Rome Visual Art Board, Australia Council for the Arts
- 2007-10 Studio head and Lecturer, School of Art, Architecture and Design, University of South Australia
- 2014 Lecturer and Tutor, Adelaide College of the Arts, Flinders University
- 2015-16 Lecturer, Jewellery and Metal, School of Art, Architecture and Design, University of South Australia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 "slowsound, timestrange", Jewellery Gallery, The Strand Arcade, Sydney
- 2014 "Light and shadow", eg.etal Contemporary Jewellery and Objects Gallery, Melbourne
- 2012 "Chiaro Oscuro", Jam Factory, Adelaide
- 2006 "Shadows hold their breath", Nexus Gallery, SA
- 2002 "The Gentle Wash of Memory", Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
- 1999 "An omen in the bone", Object Galleries, Centre for Contemporary Craft, Sydney
- "An omen in the bone", Jam Factory, Adelaide
- 1994 "Inner Vane", Craftspace, Sydney
- "Inner Vane", Victoria Gallery, Melbourne
- 1992 "Inner Vane", Jam Factory, Adelaide

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 "Covet : Contemporary Jewellery", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2018 "Masters: Art of the Precious Metal Object, National Wool Museum, Geelong, Victoria 2018
- "To have and to hold, the Daalder collection of contemporary jewellery, Art Gallery of South Australia
- 2017 "Natural Language, with Clare Belfrage & Chris de Rosa, Collect JamFactory Contemporary Craft & Design
- 2016 "International Art Jewelry Sculpture 2016", Gallery MOA, South Korea
- "National Contemporary Jewellery Award 2016", Griffith Regional Art Gallery, NSW, touring exhibition
- "Guildhouse 50", Art Gallery of South Australia Collection, Adelaide
- "Nature: A collection of nature inspired jewellery", San W Studio and Gallery, Shanghai, China
- "Calendar Girls", Gray Street Gallery, Adelaide
- 2014 "Domain of the Material", Create Space, Tokyo, Japan
- "Be Consumed: Creative collaborations from the Barossa", Jam Factory, Adelaide
- "Jewellery from Down Under", Taboo Studio, San Diego, California, USA
- "Well made", Light Square Gallery, Adelaide College of the Arts
- 2013 "Bodywork: Australian jewellery 1972-2012", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2012 "Designing Craft/Crafting Design: 40 years of Jam Factory", regional touring exhibition

- “National Contemporary Jewellery Award”, Griffith Regional Art Gallery, NSW
“TEFAF Art Fair”, Maastricht, Netherlands
2011-14 “Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor – 100 Women, 100 Brooches”, Art Gallery Queensland
2011 “Masterpiece London”, London, UK
“TEFAF Art Fair”, Maastricht, Netherlands
“Covet – A survey of South Australian Jewellery”, Adelaide Central Gallery
2010 “Abstract Nature”, Samstag Museum, University of South Australia
“Gray Street Workshop 25 years”, Art Gallery of South Australia
“Teawares contemporary ceramics, metal and furniture”, Jam Factory, Adelaide
“By example: Australian Contemporary Jewellery”, The Museum of Arts and Crafts, Itami, Japan
2009 “Collectors Cabinet”, Metalab Contemporary Jewellery Gallery, Sydney
2008 SOFA Chicago, USA
“Surfaces – contemporary jewellery exhibition”, Aaron Faber Gallery, New York, USA
“The Pendant Show” Velvet da Vinci Gallery, San Francisco, USA
2007-8 “Beyond Metal: Contemporary Australian Jewellery & Holloware”, touring exhibition, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
2006-8 “Freestyle: New Australian Design for Living”, touring exhibition, Australia and Milan, Italy
2007 “Party at the American Academy”, The British School at Rome, Rome, Italy
“Radiant in Roermond”, Galerie ra, touring exhibition, Roermond, Netherlands

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2017 ARTS-MPHD Visual Arts – Major Studio Project – Research Scholarship
2015 Independent Makers and Presenters, Arts SA Funding grant
2012 Independent Makers and Presenters, Arts SA Funding grant
2009 New Works Established visual Arts Board, Australia Council for the Arts
2006 Arts Project Assistance Scheme, Arts SA Funding grant
2004 New Works Established Visual Arts/Craft board of Australia Council
Florence Joyner Bequest Arts Scholarship, Master of Visual Arts, University of South Australia
2001 New Works grant, Visual Arts/Crafts Fund, Australia Council for the Arts
2000 Emeritus Award commission, Visual Arts/Crafts Fund, Australia Council for the Arts
1997 New works grant, visual Arts/Crafts Fund, Australia Council for the Arts
1991 Project Grant, Visual Arts/Crafts Fund, Australia Council for the Arts

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; Artbank; Alice Craft Acquisition, Crafts Council of Northern Territory, Alice Springs; Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin