**JANE ADAM**

*‘Jane Adam is a lifelong innovator, a quiet revolutionary who has carried out her pioneering work with intelligence and perseverance through four decades. Her natural language is metal, but she is unconstrained by its traditional rules. Apparent limitations are there to be tested, in a spirit of genuine enquiry, and then transcended. ‘I push my materials to their limits to explore their inherent qualities, such as how a metal tears or gains texture under stress, or the way a scratched line changes its physical character when it is stretched or compressed.’ Such free thinking allows unexpected outcomes to be appreciated and exploited for their intrinsic textural or visual beauty. She treasures ‘the magical moment when the right piece finds the right owner… By becoming part of the wearer’s experience and expression of self, my jewellery is transformed and completed… I know I have succeeded in making something relevant when other people respond by buying and wearing my work’. Jane Adam’s jewellery changes people; it changes as it is worn; the maker herself changes over time. Her work shows steady evolution melded with continuity, and a sense of circularity, where everything comes around - but always in an original and excitingly different way.’*

*Dr Elizabeth Goring, 2019*

Jane Adam was born in London. After a short career in retail management at Heal’s and Liberty’s, she gained a degree in 3D Design at Manchester Polytechnic in 1981 and an MA in Metalwork and Jewellery at the Royal College of Art.

When she graduated in 1985, she set up her studio in central London. Since then, she has concentrated full time on making jewellery, combining artistic integrity, ongoing experimentation, and technical innovation with a grounded sense of practical reality, to design and create jewellery that appeals to women (and men) of all ages. This is shown in leading galleries and exhibitions internationally, and by Jane herself at shows such as Goldsmiths’ Fair.

Her innovative work in anodised aluminium jewellery has been widely influential, and her jewellery is included in many major museums, and in public and private collections.

Jane has taught and lectured in Portugal, Taiwan, India, China, the USA and in universities throughout the UK, and was Research Fellow at the School of Jewellery in Birmingham from 1997 to 2001.

She has been involved in many committees, selection and advisory panels for the crafts and jewellery sectors. She was a key member of the founding committee of the Association for Contemporary Jewellery and served as its first vice-chair and second chairman. From 2002 to 2010, she was a maker trustee and then co-vice chair of the Crafts Council during a period of review and restructuring.

From 2015 to 2019, she served as a trustee of Cockpit Arts, where she had her workshop for many years before moving in 2015 to her own bespoke studio in South-west London.

**Education**

1977-1978 Foundation course, Kingston Polytechnic

1978-1981 BA(Hons) 3D Design, Manchester Polytechnic

1982-1985 MA(RCA) Metalwork and Jewellery, Royal College of Art

**Public Collections** (selected)

Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen

Art Gallery of Southern Australia, Adelaide, Australia

Atkinson Art Gallery, Southport

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, USA

Cominelli Foundation, Cisano de San Felice, Italy

Cooper Hewitt Museum of Design, New York

Crafts Council, London

Crafts Study Centre, Farnham

Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Goldsmiths’ Company, London

Hove Museum and Art Gallery

MIMA, Middlesbrough

National Museums Northern Ireland, Belfast

National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh

Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence, Kansas, USA

Shipley Art Gallery & Museum, Gateshead

Victoria & Albert Museum, London (Dept. of Jewellery)

Victoria & Albert Museum, London (Dept. of Prints and Drawings)

**Selected Solo Exhibitions** (\* indicates catalogue)

1999 The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh

1999-2002 ‘Jane Adam Jewellery’, Ruthin Craft Centre, Wales & British tour \*

2000 Arai Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2001 Noroeste, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

2004 The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh

2006 Patina Gallery, Santa Fe, USA

2009 The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh

Contemporary Applied Arts (showcase)

2010 Electrum Gallery, London (showcase)

Gallery CAJ, Kyoto, Japan

2013 ‘Jane Adam - Beyond the Surface’, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh\*

2018 ‘Jane Adam- Duality’, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh\*

2019 ‘Never the Same River’, Bluecoat Display Centre, Liverpool \*

2020 ‘Never the Same River’, Ruthin Craft Centre, Ruthin, Denbighshire\*

**Selected Group Exhibitions** (\* indicates catalogue)

1986 ‘Britain in Vienna’ Kunstlerhaus and Galerie V&V, Vienna

1987-1988 ‘The New Spirit’ Crafts Council Gallery, London and tour

1988-89 ‘Contemporary British Crafts’ National Museums, Kyoto and Tokyo, Japan

1991 ‘British Jewellery’Crafts Council Gallery, London and tour

‘Body Adornment’ Castle Museum, Nottingham and tour

1992-94 ‘All That Glisters’ British Council, India and international tour

1998 ‘Jewellery Moves’Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh

2000-2005 ‘Aluminum by Design: Jewelry to Jets’Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, USA & international tour

2001-02 ‘Jerwood Prize for Applied Arts: Jewellery’Crafts Council, London & tour.

2007 ‘From Minimal to Bling’ Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, USA

2008 ‘Contemporary Jewellery UK-Japan’Gallery Shop Si, Kobe, Japan

‘Collect’ (with Cockpit Arts) V&A Museum, London

2009 Two-person exhibition (with Tom Hill) Velvet da Vinci, San Francisco

2011 ‘Open Mind – International Contemporary Metal Art’ Sungkok Art Museum, Seoul, Korea

2012 ‘Diamonds: Take a Fresh Look’Lesley Craze Gallery, London

‘New Directions in Contemporary Crafts’ Mottisfont House, Romsey, Hampshire

2013 ‘Contemporary Goldsmithing: Tradition and Excellence’ SNAG, USA (online)

2014 ’30 Years in the Making’ Lesley Craze Gallery, London

2015 ‘A Sense of Jewellery’Goldsmiths’ Centre, London

2017 ‘Make’Ruthin Craft Centre, Ruthin, Wales

‘Loot – MAD About Jewelry’ Museum of Art and Design, New York, USA

2018 ‘Melting Point’Craft in the Bay, Cardiff

‘Nexus’ Kirkcaldy Art Centre and Ruthin Craft Centre

‘Stock – Scion Interaction:

Jewelry by Jane Adam and Michihiro Sato’ BMFJ Studio and Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan

2019 ‘Making Connections – Notions of Beauty’ BR Gallery, Yunnan, China

2020 Collect (with Goldsmiths’ Fair) Somerset House, London

MAD virtual trunk show Museum of Arts and Design, New York (online)

2020 & 2021 ‘Dazzle Invites’ Dazzle (online)

2021 ‘Dazzle: 40 Brooches for 40 Years’ Dazzle (online)

‘What Colour is Metal?’ Dublin Castle, Dublin, Eire

'Coded Colours', two persons show with Yi Zhao BR Gallery, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China

2022 ‘What Colour is Metal?’ National Design & Craft Gallery, Kilkenny, Eire.

‘What Colour is Metal?’, Winchester Gallery, Winchester\*

**Awards**

1985 RCA Major Travelling Scholarship (to India)

1985 RCA Allen Lane Penguin Book Prize

1985 Crafts Council Setting Up Grant

1991 Visual Production Award, Greater London Arts

1997-2001 Research awards, University of Central England

2000 Shortlisted for Jerwood Prize for Applied Arts (Jewellery)

2010 ACJ Origin Prize

**Publications and Broadcasts** (selected)

1999 ‘Jane Adam’ Ruthin Craft Centre

2001 – Film ‘Art and Empire’ British Galleries, V&A Museum

2003 ‘Rich Alchemy: Jane Adam’ Ornament, USA

2005 ‘Jane Adam’ ‘Interior World’ Magazine, Taiwan

2008 ‘The Face of Craft’ Craft and Design Magazine

2008 Interview with Corinne Julius Woman’s Hour’, BBC Radio 4

2009 'Woman of Mettle' BBC Homes and Antiques Magazine

2009 ‘Exhibition in Print’ Metalsmith magazine

2011 ‘21st Century Jewellery’ Martha le Van, Lark Books

2014 ‘I am Jane Adam’ Making Jewellery

2014 ‘One of Us: The Jane Adam Club’ Craft Arts International

**Professional Experience**

1972-1977 Worked in retail management at Heal’s, Guildford and London, and Liberty’s, London.

1985 Set up her workshop in central London.

1985 – 1986 Visited India as recipient of RCA Major Travelling Scholarship.

1985-1997 Taught in various colleges and universities in the UK, USA and Portugal.

1992 British Council visiting lecturer, touring India with the exhibition ‘All That Glisters’.

1994-2015 Studio at Cockpit Arts, London.

1997 Guest speaker, 'Jewellers' Exchange' international conference, Newcastle upon Tyne.

1997-2001 Research Fellow, Jewellery Industry Innovation Centre, School of Jewellery, Birmingham.

1997-2000 Founding member and vice chairman, Association for Contemporary Jewellery.

2000 Guest presenter, SNAG conference, Boston, USA.

Co-organiser, ‘A Sense of Wonder’, ACJ international conference, Birmingham.

Guest speaker, ‘Aluminium by Design’ international symposium, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, USA.

2000-2002 Chairman, Association for Contemporary Jewellery.

2001-2007 Member of Jewellery Purchasing Advisory Panel, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art.

2002-2010 Maker Trustee, Crafts Council.

2003-2006 Chair, Crafts Council Development Award.

2004 Visiting artist, Tainan National College of the Arts, Taiwan.

2004-2007 External examiner, Glasgow School of Art.

2009-2010 Co-deputy Chair, Crafts Council.

2015 Set up new studio in Southwest London.

2015-2019 Trustee, Cockpit Arts.

2016 Commission for large mobile sculpture, Kapor Center for Social Impact, Oakland, California, USA.

2018 Workshop and public lecture, BMFJ Studio and Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan.

2019 Annual Gardner-Medwin lecture, Bluecoat Display Centre, Liverpool.

2019 Visiting artist, BR Gallery and Yunnan Arts University, Yunnan, China.

2021 Judge, Goldsmiths’ Craft and Design Council Awards.

SNAG Voices, online presentation and virtual studio tour, Society of North American Goldsmiths, USA.

2022 Elected to membership of the Art Workers’ Guild.