

This month, I am continuing with the theme of British Designers and looking at Collette Waudby.

The face behind the name: Collette Waudby

by Sally Thornton

Things to know about Collette Waudby



Collette on the left with her team

- At art school Collette was originally working on very large sculptural projects but was given the opportunity to work on some small scale pieces. She was introduced to jeweller's tools and loved the detail and control and so became hooked.

Mavilo entwined leaf bangle from £122



- Driven by a desire to use the body as a canvas, Collette moved to the Birmingham School of Jewellery and after graduating worked for a year in a shared workshop paid for by a local initiative that helped eight young jewellers or silversmiths to become established.



Marina silver drop earrings £66



Marina silver two part stud earrings £94

- To supplement her income she also worked part-time in the Jewellers Arms Pub.....FULL of old jewellers from the Quarter more than ready to tell her she was doing everything wrong. "I would take in projects for critique over their lunchtime pint(s) and gain great insight into ways of improving what I was doing. That job opened a lot of doors in the trade that might have stayed shut to a 'bloody college girl'"

- On finishing that year, Collette set-up her own studio in the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter where she has remained ever since. "I love being in The Jewellery Quarter. It is super handy with so many goods and service providers that are just minutes from my door."



Silver & 9ct gold 3 leaf pendant £158

- As Collette explains "I spend 80% of my time at the bench, I love love love it!!!! I set aside time for design work several times a year. This is also done at the bench straight into metal - I do not enjoy designing on paper or computer."

Collette was awarded the Jewellery Designer of the Year in 2014.

- Collette mentions that it took 8 years from graduation to develop her style. "I am highly influenced by symmetry and balance in nature, so when you see any design of mine that is asymmetrical in it's effortless flow, it will have taken many hours to get right - such is my obsession with balance."
- My favourite collection is Mavilo which shows Collette's meticulous attention to the polished edges which she achieves by using felt wheels.

- One of her newer range Dreki is homage to Collette's Nordic heritage. Another of her collections, Lillium, was created after she was married in New Zealand on a butterfly farm with lilies in her bouquet.



Mavilo slim leaf pendant from £205

Mavilo wide leaf pendant from £88



Mavilo double slim leaf earrings from £155



- As Collette said, "Above all else, from whatever the starting point, my one constant desire is to make the person who wears my jewellery LOVE how it makes them feel & look."



Mavilo slim leaf double pendant from £98



Marina double pendant £94



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