

This month we focus on the jewellery designer Rachel Galley. Her career path to start with was similar to mine and whilst studying on an Art Foundation course Rachel was encouraged to follow the jewellery design route. Having interviewed her for this article, it is clear to see how determined Rachel was to work in the trade. She is totally driven and motivated about her craft and this is reflected in her work.

The faces behind the designs

by Sally Thornton

Ten things to know about Rachel Galley

1. Rachel started making jewellery with beads and wire at Primary school and influenced by this she went on to study jewellery design at Central Saint Martin's University of the Arts London and has never looked back.



Rachel Galley

2. When Rachel completed her degree, she went to work straightaway for high profile companies, Links of London, Stephen Webster and Boodles.



Silver Cherish Strand Hoop Earrings £180

3. Rachel set up her own company in 2009 and her lattice work jewellery which she designed in her first year at Central Saint Martin's still remains her signature look.



Silver Pebble Lattice Drop Earrings £55

4. Rachel's new 'Cherish' collection is based on a pendant that her Grandma left to her and her Mum, which was beautifully engraved and overlaid with a stunning blue enamel. She has taken some of these details and used them in this collection.



Silver Charmed Pebble Necklace £239

5. Rachel's jewellery is a favourite amongst the celebrities including Tess Daly, Thandie Newton, Naomi Watts, Jerry Hall, Girls Aloud, and Kim Kardashian.



Silver Molto Bracelet £165



Silver Drop Large Pendant £99

Silver heart pendant £75

Silver Charmed Pebble Locket Pendant £125

Rachel who also works in gold has recently launched a new bridal collection and has won 'Bridal Design of the Year 2015'

7. Rachel confesses to being a bit of a slave driver, so the girls that work for her name themselves 'Galley slaves', which she hopes and believes is in good humour.

6. In the summer, Rachel enjoys road biking as she lives in the Lake District. As she says the views are amazing and to get out and about is a great way to unwind, just one problem, there are far too many hills!

9. Rachel comes across as pretty easy going and obviously loves her job. She says "We're dealing with beautiful materials and products and lovely customers, so why shouldn't we have smiles on our faces when we are doing it".



Snowdrop Trilogy Ring Set Rings for Bridal Design of the Year 2015 POA

8. Rachel still manages to work on the bench regularly as a way to zone out as well as fiddling with an idea before making a bespoke piece. She enjoys the practical side of being a jewellery designer but on the downside it ruins your nails and she has now given up on expensive manicures!

10. If you haven't discovered Rachel's work before, it's striking. My favourite piece has to be the 'Cherish' bangle which is beautifully made and what makes it extra special is the story behind it.



Silver Cherish Zig Zag Bangle £375



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