

This month, I am continuing with the theme of British designers and we focus on Emma-Kate Francis. The name may not as yet be familiar but you may recognize her work with Jersey Pearl.

## The face behind the name: Emma-Kate Francis

by Sally Thornton

### Ten things to know about Emma-Kate Francis

1. At school Emma-Kate was torn between a career in Marine Biology and Art. She chose the Art route and whilst on her Art Foundation course she at first thought sculpture was her calling but then discovered Silversmithing.



Vermeil Rose Gold Pearl Drop Set £155

3. After studying in Germany for a year Emma-Kate gained a real insight in the Bauhaus design era and loved the whole 'form follows function' ideal. Although the two styles are juxtaposed as she says "but that's what I love about it, they embody my nature as a strong minded independent but eternal romantic which transpires into my designs".

2. Emma-Kate went on to study at Camberwell College and then in Germany learning finer silversmithing techniques. She then pursued her passion further by gaining an M.A. at the Royal College of Art.



Double Pearl Calla Lily Bracelet

4. Emma-Kate initially established her career in Clerkenwell, London where she met her Welsh husband and in 2008 Emma followed her heart and together they moved to Wales, first to Cardiff and then to Cowbridge where she now has set up her business.



Emma-Kate Francis



Calla Lily Necklaces

5. Jersey Pearl approached Emma-Kate to create her own pearl collection. "I was really flattered as they'd noticed my love of pearls! I love that Jersey Pearl is a family run business and their energy and support have been wonderful."



Silver Calla Lily Pearl Rings From £79

7. Like many designers Emma-Kate can get lost at the bench as it's a pleasure to be able to spend time developing designs, but as she says "I just have to be aware of how long I do spend".



Calla Lily Ring £79

9. Last year Emma-Kate was asked by the Welsh Government to represent the UK as a Welsh Ambassador in the creative sector for a trade mission to Mexico and to showcase my work at Mexico Design Festival 2014 with the UKTI along with Laurence Llewelyn Bowen.



Silver Filigree Peacock Grey Pendant £69



Pearl & Vermeil Gold Filigree Drop Earrings £49

6. Emma-Kate's uncomplicated classics use wax carving and hand forging techniques. Her designs for Jersey Pearl incorporate vermeil gold filigree work set with freshwater pearls are quite delicate, whereas her Calla Lily collection shows her love of nature and have a strong sculptural quality.

"I really wish Audrey Hepburn was still alive" Says Emma-Kate, "She is one of my style icons and could just imagine her wearing my jewellery!"

8. To commemorate Barack Obama's visit to Wales as part of the NATO summit Emma-Kate was commissioned to create a gift of cufflinks. "I received a lovely letter from him."



Silver & Peacock Grey Fresh Water Pearl Ring £49

10. "I have recently learnt to sail and found I was energised after a few hours of being out on the water. It's great to focus on something completely different and challenging. I want to own my own yacht one day."



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1/7 High Street, Kettering, NN168ST

Tel: 01536 513014 [www.aathorntonjeweller.com](http://www.aathorntonjeweller.com)