



Press Release

3 May 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leeds jewellery designer showcased at Leeds College of Art

Ann O'Donnell Modernist Jeweller 12 May - 27 July 2017, Blenheim Walk Gallery
Opening event: Thursday 11 May, 5-7pm

Leeds College of Art is pleased to announce its summer exhibition featuring work by Leeds-based jewellery designer Ann O'Donnell, curated by Dr Sam Broadhead and Frances Norton.

Ann O'Donnell studied at Leeds College of Art from 1950-1954, returning to teach from 1960-1986. She has been creating jewellery for over 60 years, and is motivated by a keen interest in ancient Roman glass, gemmology, archaeological and geological finds. This exhibition seeks to secure her reputation more firmly within the mid-twentieth century modernist context, whilst providing opportunity for the curators to present a range of research outputs on the history and theory of jewellery.

A free public lecture with curator Dr Sam Broadhead will be held on Thursday 25 May. This will be followed by a show and tell session; attendees are invited to bring or wear a favourite piece of jewellery and share a story about it.

Editor's Notes

Press are invited to Blenheim Walk Gallery to preview the exhibition on Thursday 11 May, 5-7pm. Refreshments will be served. RSVP to: sophie.millerwallace@leeds-art.ac.uk or 0113 202 8044.

The exhibition will run from 12 May to 27 July 2017 at Leeds College of Art, Blenheim Walk Gallery, Leeds, LS2 9AQ. www.leeds-art.ac.uk

Image: Ann O'Donnell, Purple Brooch, Gold and Amethyst. Courtesy of Ann O'Donnell, photo by Anne Wyman.

Exhibition events:

Public Lecture and Show and Tell

Thursday 25 May 1-3pm, Leeds College of Art, Blenheim Walk Gallery

About Ann O'Donnell

Ann O'Donnell (b. 1933) is a jewellery artist-maker from the North of England who was educated at Leeds College of Art (1950-1954) where she studied dress design and jewellery as part of her National Diploma in Design. She went onto postgraduate study at the Royal College of Art (1954-1957) specialising in goldsmithing, silversmithing, metalwork and jewellery. Ann O'Donnell returned to teach at Leeds College of Art from 1960 - 1986. The main influences on her work are her art school education; her collection of ancient beads and her extensive knowledge of gemmology.

Leeds College of Art

Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds College of Art has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. The College has an impressive history of notable past students, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth were students in 1919 and 1920. In later years Damien Hirst, Marcus Harvey, Eric Bainbridge, Clio Barnard and Georgina Starr all studied at the College, known then as the Jacob Kramer College. The College's recent graduates continue to win prestigious international awards year on year and enjoy successful careers in the creative industries. Leeds College of Art has recently started of building works on a new £14 million state-of-the-art expansion, due to be completed by summer 2018. The expansion marks the start of an exciting journey for the College, with plans in place to become the only specialist arts university in the North of England.

www.leeds-art.ac.uk