

IRL/URL: Jewellery and Metal Graduate 2020 Show at Gallery SO - Press Release and Comms

The Jewellery and Metal Programme asks you to reconfigure your perceptions, to not adjust your set and to dive headfirst into the new visual realms created by our 2020 graduates in their joint exhibition and publication: IRL/URL and URL/IRL.

IRL/URL – Exhibition (16th - 29th July 2021)

"The IRL / URL exhibition and publication harks back to the year 2020 BC* , before the birth of the reign of Zoom, Houseparty and TikTok, in a time free of mandatory face masks and social distancing."

*Before Covid

(Finchittida Finch RCA, JaM Graduate 2020)

Last Summer, for the first time in its history, the RCA's renowned MA Jewellery and Metal graduate show went virtual. Covid-19 and the lockdown in March presented what felt, at the time, like insurmountable challenges: The soldering hearth torches were extinguished the hammer room fell silent, enamelling kilns were left to cool and student work lay abandoned and unfinished in bench skins. The inevitable frustrations that arose quickly turned to resilience as the class of 2020 devised new modes of expression in a 'virtual' world.

Our graduates, dispersed across the world, have continued to innovate and experiment, subvert and analyse, contextualise and materialise physical works for this unique presentation and exhibition at Gallery SO in London. The exhibition will demonstrate the power of material thinking and making and its importance in enriching our lives in imaginative and meaningful ways. Exhibited works of jewellery and object will delve into diverse and wide-ranging topics including socio-political commentaries, archaeological and anthropological methods, identity, memory and spirituality alongside works which explore the wide-ranging possibilities of material and materiality's.

URL/IRL – Publication

To coincide with the exhibition, and through a joint collaboration with Sold Out Publishing (whose aims are to decolonise and diversify graphic design -RCA graduates 2020), the exhibition will serve as the launch for a publication of image and text by the group, documenting their individual narratives and stories and offering poetic visions and interpretations of our contemporary world and the human condition.

Exhibition Events (Sat 24th July 2021)

Alongside the work, the 2020 graduates, will present the concepts and processes surrounding their practices to stimulate discussion, in a series of intimate, informal artists talks to a public audience.

NOTES FOR EDITOR:

Programme and school

The postgraduate MA Jewellery & Metal programme is part of the School of Arts and & Humanities whose multi-disciplinary mix acknowledges the need for creative responses to the extraordinary challenges our world presents and provides a broad framework and context for student practice to answer these demands.

The department is located within the RCA Woo Building in Battersea, the building is dedicated to the specific needs of the students with light filled open plan studios are supported by a 'state of the art' suite of workshops and satellite rooms for the many specialist techniques that are essential to mastery of jewellery and metal. Our students spend two years in this dynamic learning environment developing a deep understanding of raw materials and their transformative processes. They are encouraged to explore ideas within and beyond the traditions of art and design and the conventions of their subject, to expand their imagination, to locate themselves in a global context, and to find their professional voice.

Gallery S O

Gallery S O was founded in 2003 by Felix Flury in Solothurn, Switzerland, and six years later the gallery opened a second space in Brick Lane, London. The gallery's main focus is exploring the potentialities of the contemporary object and the interplay of function, form and concept. Gallery S O aims to provide a space for an open and fruitful dialogue between different artistic disciplines. Alongside representing internationally renowned jewellery and metalwork artists, Gallery S O organizes temporary art and design exhibitions in its unique project space and publishes monographs, catalogues and books

Info Contact: Jonathan Boyd (Head of Programme) Jonathan.boyd@rca.ac.uk
Gallery S O: 92 Brick Ln, London E1 6RL.

Opening Hours: Wednesday -Sunday. 12:00 -18:00