

January, 2019

Alex O'Connor

Alex O'Connor came to silversmithing from a background in Fine Art and Sculpture. Accordingly, her silverware merges an inherent understanding of aesthetic balance, form and composition with the specific disciplines of contemporary craft.

Functional considerations inform, but do not define, her pieces: vessels are a constant theme in her work, as a means to explore ideas of ritual, containment, reflection and metaphor, and the balance between utility and expression. Using the traditional techniques of scoring, folding and raising precious metal sheets, she creates single and grouped collections of pure shapes with subtly tactile surfaces, designed to celebrate the material, whilst attempting to evoke ephemeral sensations through the unique qualities of silver.

Her recent collections respond to the powerful topography of West Cornwall, where she lives and works. Created through a process that begins with walking and observing, fragments of sensation become working drawings for contemporary silverware that brings together ideas of both our external and internal landscape.

In 2017, Alex was selected for the *Contemporary British Silversmiths Design in Silver Award*. In 2018 she will be exhibiting in London at *New Designers – One Year On* from 27 to 30 June; *Made For The Table* from 13 July to 31 August; at the *London Design Fair* from 20 to 23 September, and at *Goldsmiths Fair* from 25 to 30 September. She also accepts private commissions.

Education:

2017 BA Hons 1st Silversmithing and Jewellery, Truro College, Cornwall

1992 BA Hons 2:1 Fine Art, Kingston University

Professional Development and Training:

2018 Contemporary British Silversmiths Skills Training Programme: Graduate Hammer Skills with Rauni Higson and Abigail Brown.

Skills Training with Rebecca de Quin: Curved scoring and folding techniques, forming and soldering.

'Getting Started' Five day business programme at the Goldsmiths' Centre.

Forthcoming exhibitions:

2019 Handmade Oxford 27th-30th June

2019 Collect, Petronilla Silver Stand 6.4 Saatchi Gallery

Selected exhibitions:

- 2018 Zilvermuseum, Schoonhoven, Netherlands
Gifted Kath Libbert Gallery, Bradford
The Goldsmiths' Fair, Goldsmiths' Hall, London
London Design Fair, The Old Truman Brewery, London
Made for the Table The Goldsmiths' Centre, London
One Year In New Designers, Business Design Centre, London
Rising Stars The New Ashgate Gallery, Farnham
- 2017 *Shin* The Goldsmiths' Centre, London
New Designers Business Design Centre, London
Inspired The Goldsmiths Centre, London

Awards

- 2018 Finalist for the Schoonhoven Silver Award
Second Place, Lewton-Brain Foldform Competition
- 2017 Goldsmiths' Company Silver Bullion Grant
Contemporary British Silversmiths *Design in Silver* Award