

Claire Bevan UK

Claire Bevan is a designer-maker who specialises in unique interior screens and delicate body adornment, whilst exploiting the inherent qualities of handmade felt. Having recently graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Jewellery and Silversmithing from the Birmingham School of Jewellery. She is currently expanding upon the collection from her studio in Somerset. Claire draws upon long-established jewellery and textile techniques in an innovative and unconventional manner; thereby breaking boundaries with her interdisciplinary approach.

The majority of her body adornment and interior pieces unite precious and non-precious metal with handmade nunofelt, resulting in work that captivates the viewer. Her translucent interior screen entitled Finura, consists of five subtly distinctive panels designed to be suspended. The handmade felt panels are delicately enhanced by sinuous organic compositions and balanced with precise silver outlines. For the body, intrinsic qualities of this oldest known textile are retained and exploited once again, in fine layers of handmade felt that subtly graduate in colour. Each piece is further enhanced by its eventual setting; whereas the body adornment flourishes when placed around

one's neck or wrist, Finura generates deep visual impact once suspended within a contemporary architectural setting and immersed in natural light.

The concept for her collection is unusual, deriving from curiosity of psychological disorders and the pieces explore the requirement for structure and stability in



everyday life. Although the work embodies a need for consistency, it also focuses on the erratic behaviour that occurs when this routine breaks down. This concept, together with visual inspiration gathered purely for its aesthetic appeal help to inspire the experimental and developmental phases of the design process.

Works by Claire Bevan.

Opposite page: 'Cayendo' handmade nunofelt neckpiece; silk chiffon, merino, mulberry silk and nylon.

Above: 'Finura' interior screen.

Right: 'Finura' five panel interior screen; 3.10m x 2.80m; hand felted, silk chiffon, merino, mulberry silk, silver and throwster's waste.

See also inside front cover.
Photos: Claire Bevan

In the near future, Claire hopes to develop a new body of work by diversifying her range of skills on a Postgraduate Course. While the notion of eco design is presently a key issue to consider, perhaps ensuring material sustainability, it is also her objective to further investigate the visual disparities between textiles and precious metal.

A medley of the work comprising organic interior hangings and delicate contemporary jewellery will be shown at An Tuireann Visual Arts Centre on the Isle of Skye and the Sara Preisler Contemporary Gallery in Birmingham.

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clairebevan57@hotmail.com

