

CONTEMPORARY BRITISH SILVERSMITHS

25 March 2012
NEWS RELEASE

Contemporary British Silversmiths Announces Prestigious Exhibition at Victoria and Albert Museum: *Fit for Purpose*: a practical and conceptual exploration of silver

30 March – 16 September 2012



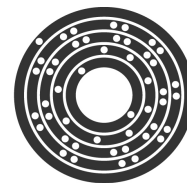
Images from right to left: Kevin Grey, Olivia Lowe, Peter Musson. Photographer: Clarissa Bruce.

Contemporary British Silversmiths is delighted to announce it has been invited by the Victoria and Albert Museum to create a display to complement its much anticipated major exhibition, *British Design 1948-2012: Innovation in the Modern Age*. Part of the V&A's British Design Season, it has been chosen to represent the state of the art in contemporary silverware and this showcase will take an imaginative look at the theme *Fit for Purpose*. Fifty two established and up-and-coming silversmiths from around the UK will be creating unique work on the theme of *Fit for Purpose: a practical and conceptual exploration of silver*, which will be exhibited within the Museum's Silver Galleries and is supported by the Goldsmiths' Company.

In addition, all work will bear the new Diamond Jubilee commemorative hallmark which will be struck only during 2012, alongside the 2012 UK hallmark, making these objects historically significant and collectable. The exhibition will take an imaginative look at the idea of 'Fit for Purpose'. Each objects' function will be explored through the medium of silver, both practical and conceptual, with each piece described by its purpose. The display will include work by some of the best practising British silversmiths today.

Clive Burr, Chairman of Contemporary British Silversmiths said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been invited to exhibit at the V&A, particularly in such a significant year. As the leading independent association for contemporary silversmithing, we have been active both nationally and internationally for two decades promoting innovative thinking and excellence in British silver design and

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workmanship. We are thrilled to have been recognised for this and to have the opportunity to showcase our work in such a prestigious venue.”

Eric Turner, Curator at the V&A commented: “Contemporary British Silversmiths aims to promote the highest standards of silverware design in Britain today. This collection offers supreme evidence of how its members succeed in acknowledging the rich historical heritage that is British silversmithing while equally renewing and reinventing it.”

Exhibiting alongside established members of the association, many of whom are represented in national collections, 13 new graduates will be displaying their work in this showcase of contemporary design. Contemporary British Silversmiths has long supported the next generation of silversmiths through its mentoring scheme. Upon joining, new graduate members are offered a mentor as their first point of contact and are actively encouraged to seek new skills by consulting with other members on either a one-to-one workshop basis or via telephone or email contact.

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Event: Fit for Purpose: a practical and conceptual exploration of silver
An exhibition of contemporary silver by members of Contemporary British Silversmiths

Date: 30th March – 16th September 2012

Venue: Whiteley Galleries, Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 2RL
The display is part of the V&A's British Design Season and complements the V&A's major spring exhibition British Design 1948-2012: Innovation in the Modern Age (31 March–12 August 2012), sponsored by Ernst & Young.

Contact: info@contemporarybritishsilversmiths.org

Press: press@contemporarybritishsilversmiths.org

EXHIBITORS (52):

Established members (39):

Abigail Brown, Clive Burr, Stuart Cairns, Stella Campion, Julie Chamberlain, Angela Cork, Rebecca de Quin, Howard Fenn, Richard Fox, Wally Gilbert, Karina Gill, Rajesh Gogna, Kevin Grey, Charles Hall, Miriam Hanid, Jacqueline Harold, Rauni Higson, Kathryn Hinton, Esther Lord, Olivia Lowe, Caroline Lytton, Helen Marriott, Shona Marsh, Alistair McCallum, Roger Millar, Cara Murphy, Peter Musson, Brett Payne, Don Porritt, Martyn Pugh, Alex Ramsay, Pamela Rawnsley, Jacqueline Scholes, Mary Ann Simmons, Lucian Taylor, Stefan Tooke, Keith Tyssen, Frances Julie Whitelaw, Brian Williamson.

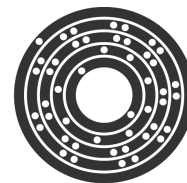
Graduate members (13):

Victoria Coleman, Jemma Daniels, James Dougall, Laura Golborne, Shaun Grace, Rebecca Hill, Phil Jordan, Martin Keane, Samantha Moore, Louise Mary, Ben Ryan, Eve Claire Taylor, Hazel Thorn.

Contemporary British Silversmiths

Contemporary British Silversmiths (CBS) was launched in 1996 by a core group of professional

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makers determined to give a voice to a new generation of silversmiths, rich in diverse talents with a wealth of exciting new ideas. Encouraging innovative thinking and re-affirming a shared commitment to excellence in design and workmanship have been its flagship values.

Over two decades the association's many exhibitions have travelled throughout the UK, and to Holland, Germany, Denmark, Taiwan, USA and most recently Finland. These exhibitions and events showcase members' work and provide makers with the opportunity and environment in which to explore and develop fresh ideas. Uniquely, work is specifically designed for every exhibition. Many of the members of the association are represented in prestigious national collections such as Downing Street, The Goldsmiths' Company and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Contemporary British Silversmiths is dedicated to maintaining and advancing the historic craft of silversmithing within the context of contemporary design. The CBS represents a valuable forum for silversmiths throughout the country and an important point of contact for anyone interested in modern silverware.

e: info@contemporarybritishsilversmiths.org
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f: www.facebook.com/contemporarybritishsilversmiths

Hallmarking and the Diamond Jubilee

This year, a special commemorative hallmark has been designed to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, the second British Monarch to serve for 60 years. All work in the Fit for Purpose exhibition will feature this mark, which is only available during 2012 and will be struck alongside the conventional 2012 UK hallmark. This commemorative hallmark follows on from previous historical marks such as the Silver Jubilee of George and Mary in 1935, the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, the Silver Jubilee in 1975, the Golden Jubilee in 2002 and the Millennium.

Hallmarking is the oldest form of consumer protection, dating back to 1300. Therefore, as well as guaranteeing the purity of the metal of the work, this unique hallmark will make these items historically significant and collectable.

As our members come from locations across the UK, the Jubilee mark will be accompanied by individual makers' marks alongside the Assay Office marks of London, Birmingham, Sheffield or Edinburgh.

For general guidance on hallmarking visit: www.bis.gov.uk/britishhallmarkingcouncil or contact individual assay offices – London, Sheffield, Birmingham and Edinburgh.