



Jonathan Olliffe

Describe the project

These beautiful silver vessels are designed to hold a single flower. They are functional objects and can also stand alone as sculptural works. Measuring from 35cm-40cm in height, these sweeping, elegant silver forms are designed to fit on to fixed glass shelves, using a sliding and magnetic device.

What techniques are involved in its development?

My method of composition is based on fabricating sheet metal, exposing the edges of the vessels, allowing the viewer to see the inner structure which is deliberately left exposed. When the pieces are viewed from various angles new shapes can be depicted. I am acutely aware of the fact that my work incorporates precious metals and for this reason I set out to create treasured objects that have longevity and "respect the true qualities of silver". It is a time-consuming process involving a great deal of detailed soldering techniques.

What influences you?

I am influenced by the architectural and industrial structures that surround us in everyday life and I am fascinated by the technical challenges of design.

What inspires you?

I am driven by a desire to push the boundaries in silversmithing and relish the prospect of tackling complex technical issues. I focus on the gradual construction of buildings and am particularly interested in the supporting structures that brace buildings and bridges. I strive to create contemporary, elegant forms from inspiration that could be considered fairly masculine and heavy, this is a challenge that I aim to achieve.

How do you want individuals to describe your work?

To be known for one-off design pieces that sit well in a contemporary domestic setting.

Jonathan, graduated with a BA (Hons) First in Jewellery and Silversmithing at Birmingham City University's School of Jewellery in 2007 and is now studying towards an MA in Jewellery, Silversmithing and Related Products at the Birmingham City University School of Jewellery.

