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m² Gallery

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Frances Wadsworth-Jones

18th September - 9th November 2008

Statement

A love of paradox and a fascination with the miniature are the driving forces behind my work. Through painstaking attention to the smallest details I attempt to craft visual contradictions – pieces that live a double life in the eye of the viewer, a fiction of normality on the casual glance, and a reality that is anything but on closer inspection.

Subverting established visual codes and employing the strategies of the double take, I aim to create works that exist at the unstable boundaries where supposed opposites collide – a margin where the ugly may be beautiful and what seduces can repel, where the precious and the worthless are interchangeable and the mundane may be extraordinary.

From conventional jewellery that is entirely constructed out of tiny insects, to stationery clips that transform into the literal butterflies of their name and accidental splashes which subtly glitter with gems, my work explores the imagery of the undesirable and unremarkable within the context of bodily adornment as the perfect vehicle for challenging paradox. Combining labour intensive and often traditional metalworking techniques with luscious, valuable materials, I attempt to confound the viewer by transforming what at first may seem to be infringements of their personal body space into the most beautiful and precious of jewellery on closer inspection, and ostensibly traditional adornment into a Trojan horse of possibilities.

Though there is a consistent element of transgression in my work – an oscillation between the adorned and the defiled – playful provocation is always underwritten by the desire to assert beauty in the least likely of places and to make statements about the complex nature of human attraction. Thus, gentle subversion is used as a way to question life's givens, and explore the tension and delight that is to be found when the familiar becomes deliciously strange.

The Artist

Frances recently finished her MA in Goldsmithing, Silversmithing, Metalwork and Jewellery @ the RCA. She is currently artist in residence @ The Glasgow School of Art and you can see more of her work at The CONRAN Foundation from the 19th of September till the 10th of October.