

Ingrid Schmidt

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Medio / Keum-boo

The Koreans original technique is to fuse with a torch, who is placed under a steel plate, thin gold foil on a finished sterling silver object and a polished steel burnishes tacks it down and then presses it over the surface fixing it permanently in place.

Ingrid Schmidt fuses light, knitted or crocheted wire structures on silver plates with the Korean Keum-boo technique, resulting in strong and solid pieces of jewellery but at the same time keeping the delicacy of the fine structures.

Her art series shows variations of such fragility of interleaved 999 silver wire textures fused on silver-plates. These variants are realised by modifying the following parameters: diameter of the wire, pressure of the roller during the various stages of the creation process and last but not least modifications due to Keum-boo technique itself.

It has been fascinating to experiment with the technical challenges to find just the right tuning of the torch flame and its position towards the piece, always in view of creating the perfect results of connecting the very fragile objects into the solid frame.

Ingrid Schmidt sees her work in the tradition of ancient techniques. It can be seen as a private statement against all these fancy digital abilities to act automatically on surfaces that might eventually wipe out all handcrafted practices. This art series should remind us of our ancestor's inventive genius and that these handcrafted efforts are to the benefits of our emotional side as human beings.

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