

GARDENS OF OUR OWN INVENTIONS

GRANULATED GOLD BY DOUGLAS HARLING



ARKANSAS ARTS CENTER
DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM

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Jewelry is the symbol of good fortune and light hearted joy in beautiful things.

Elizabeth Treskow

I have a great passion for the history of metalsmithing. I use this research to create layers of meaning in my own work. By integrating historical quotations from diverse sources, I am able to leave the original context behind and engage in a personal dialog with the work.

Visual imagery combined with the permanence, value and purity of the materials are integral parts of my work. I have consistently sought to imbue each piece with a distilled and rarefied aura. This is jewelry that celebrates life. It exists beyond the constraints of politics or fashion, its immutability a testament to the human spirit.

Over the past few years I have been working with a series based on a common fourth century BC decorative motif known as the Heracles knot. The Heracles knot probably originated in ancient Egypt and remained popular through Roman times. These often-extraordinary representations of a simple tied knot had strong connections to the marriage ceremony. Ancient Greek wedding practices viewed the tying and untying of the bride's wedding garment as symbolic; the binding of two people together and the transition into matrimony. As a decorative motif it represented strength, love and fertility.

In my own work I became interested not in the idea of people bound together, but of intertwined lives. The formal knot was loosened. Love becomes a path taken, interactive but not restricting. Fertility is regarded as the natural outcome. It is both spiritual and material in nature. The pieces look at life as gardens of our own inventions. They twist and turn, bear strange fruits and flowers, and are hopefully beautiful!

—Douglas Harling



5 SEASAW, 1998

EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

BROOCHES

- 1 Lady Day, 1994
22k granulated gold, 14k gold pin mechanism
2.5 x 2.5 x .5 inches
- 2 Midnight's Garden, 1994
22k granulated gold, 14k gold pin mechanism
2.75 x 2.75 x .25 inches
- 3 OceAnna, 1995
22k granulated gold, South Sea pearl,
14k gold pin mechanism
1.5 x 2.5 x .5 inches
- 4 Pomegranate, 1995
22k granulated gold, 14k gold pin mechanism
2.5 x 2.7 x .25 inches
- 5 SeaSaw, 1998
22k granulated gold, 14k gold pin mechanism,
fresh water pearls
1.5 x 2.5 x .5 inches
- 6 Loves Me Loves Me Not, 1999
22k granulated gold, 14k gold pin mechanism
1.25 x 3 x .25 inches
- 7 Blessed Peach, 2001
22k granulated gold, 14k gold, silver, enamel
2.5 x 2.5 x .25 inches
- 8 Golden Peach, 2001
22k granulated gold, 14k gold pin mechanism
2.5 x 2.5 x 1 inches
- 9 Ninth Son, 2001
22k granulated gold, sterling, 14k gold, enamel
1.25 x 2 x .25 inches
- 10 Old City, 2001
22k granulated gold, sterling, 14k gold, enamel
2.25 x 1.5 x .25 inches
- 11 Olive Groove, 2001
22k granulated gold, sterling, 14k gold, enamel
2.25 x 1.5 x .25 inches
- 12, 13, 14
Puri Triad, 2001
22k granulated gold, resin
1.5 x 1.5 x .25 inches (each)
- 15 Sarah's Place, 2001
22k granulated gold, enamel, rock crystal,
14k gold pin mechanism
2 x 2 x 1 inches
- 16 Samarkand Peach, 2001
22k granulated gold, 14k pin mechanism
2.5 x 2.5 x 1 inches
- 17, 18, 19
Silver Carpet, 2001
Silver, sterling, 22k gold
2 x 2 x .25 inches (each)
- 20 Strange Guava, 2001
22k granulated gold, 14k pin mechanism
2.5 x 1.5 x .5 inches
- 21 Tropical Fruit, 2001
22k granulated gold, 14k gold, silver, enamel
1.25 x 2.5 x .25 inches

RINGS

- 22 Compass Rose, 1999
22k granulated gold, pearl
1 x 1 x 1 inches
- 23 California Carpet, 2001
22k granulated gold, boulder opal
1 x 1 x .5 inches
- 24 Chinese Melon, 2001
22k granulated gold, baroque pearl, boulder opal
1 x 1.125 x .75 inches
- 25 Indian Rose, 2001
22k granulated gold, coral
1 x .5 x .5 inches
- 26 Persian Ruby, 2001
22k granulated gold, ruby
1 x 1 x .5 inches

VESSELS

- 27 Beggar's Bowl, 1993
Silver, gold
2.5 x 3.5 x 3.5 inches
- 28 Lotus Bowl, 2001
Silver, 22k gold
2.5 x 4 x 4 inches
- 29 Summer Cup, 2001
Silver, 22k gold
2.5 x 4 x 4 inches

PENDANTS

- 30 The Cockscomb, 2000
22k granulated gold, jelly opal, steel cable
2.25 x 2 x .25 inches
- 31 Fortune Bearer, 2000
22k granulated gold, marble, ruby, pearl, steel cable
1.5 x 2.25 x .25 inches
- 32 Cross Pollinator, 2001
22k granulated gold, boulder opal, steel cable
1.5 x 2.25 x .25 inches

EARRINGS

- 33 Gold Drop, 2001
22k gold, 14k gold posts
- 34 Mask, 2001
22k gold, 14k gold posts
- 35 Tourmaline, 2001
22k gold, tourmaline, 14k gold posts
- 36 Turquoise, 2001
22k gold, turquoise, 14k gold posts
- 37 Zircon, 2001
22k gold, zircon, 14k gold posts

All dimensions are in inches and fractions of an inch; height precedes width precedes depth. This list is arranged by subject and title. The artist lent all works to the exhibition.