



desire / defiance
celebrating 25 years

e.g.etal is home to a collection
of the best contemporary
jewellery in Australia.

Each piece is handmade by
an individual artist. Carefully
conceived, beautifully crafted
and sincerely passed on.



desire / defiance

In 1998, e.g.etal gallery was conceived in defiance of the traditional, bringing desirable contemporary jewellery to a mainstream audience. It was a rebellious and quixotic undertaking, aimed at creating a new space to showcase art jewellery in Melbourne.

To mark e.g.etal's 25th anniversary, a collection of e.g.etal artists have each created a piece of jewellery that exists at the intersection of defiance and desire. These are beautiful, covetable objects that also challenge the wearer and push at the boundaries of what jewellery can be.

This defiant approach has rebelliously prevailed for a quarter of a century, with the gallery now representing over 55 artists from Australia and New Zealand. Over the last 25 years, e.g.etal has adorned thousands of people with pieces that challenge accepted ways of seeing, making and wearing.



Curve Set Ring

By David Parker

18ct white gold, Montana sapphire

From the early years of his practice, David was driven to create pieces that departed from the traditional: designs that present themselves as modern pieces and moved jewellery aesthetics forward. The techniques used to set the stones had to mirror that ideal. David wanted to re-imagine the way we viewed gemstones and in particular the way jewellers set stones. He wanted to incorporate a (new) sense of beauty, balanced proportion and perhaps powerful elegance. To that end, David developed the 'Curve Set' design and setting technique. Over the years the design and the technique has evolved but the idea behind this design remains the same. For more than 15 years it's been a design exclusive to e.g.etal, featuring a half carat white asscher cut diamond. For the desire / defiance exhibition, David has updated the ring design with an American stone, to honour his current home in the United States.



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Swallow Sings Hope Earrings

By Milly Thomas

Sterling silver.

“True hope is swift and flies on Swallow’s wings. Kings it makes gods, and meaner creatures kings.”

- William Shakespeare, Richard III.

Both defiance and desire create hope for something new - and this hope is in turn, transformative. Hope can change who we are.

Inspired by imagery in Shakespeare's Richard III, these earrings feature five components which move independently, creating energy within the piece. Each of the five components features an abstract swallow representation, adorned with embossed natural imagery.



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The Ultimate Amulet

By Romy Mittelman

Sterling silver, blackened sterling silver, 18ct yellow gold, 24ct yellow gold Keum-Boo.

The Ultimate Amulet brings together the full constellation of Goddesses created by Romy Mittleman for her 'New Religion' and 'Offering' collections.

Together, these Goddesses create a powerful field of energy, bringing forth the wearer's own inherent qualities and expanding them to otherworldly proportions. This necklace unleashes untamable female power, encircling the wearer protectively while charging her full of kick-ass can-do. You have been warned.

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Tempest Ring

By Anita Crowther

Australian agate, smoky quartz.

Conventionally, stone is incorporated into jewellery as a feature: fixed into a metal setting. For this piece, Anita has set a stone within a stone that encircles the wearer's finger, defying traditional methods of stone setting and wearing. The making process is technical, intricate and physical: holding it, shaping it by hand, turning, moving and pressing it against numerous grinding wheels. It's a slow and very considered process. Anita facets the lower section of the transparent stone which is tapered and adjusted to fit tightly and completely flush into a hole drilled in the agate. After using a special fixative to secure it, the artist grinds and polishes the stones as one piece, so the top is a smooth dome.

This piece is a contemporary incarnation of an ancient tradition. Carved stone rings were fashioned by ancient civilizations, speaking to an innate desire of mankind to fashion adornment from the earth's beautiful treasures. Material that is millions of years old that will continue on into the future after being shaped by human hands.

 Sold



Blue Hope Dress Ring

By Liv Boyle

Beach plastic (Woolamai), sterling silver.

Liv Boyle's Dress Ring design first appeared in bone and gold as part of her graduate exhibition (2012), and became a foundation piece in her first collection for e.g.etal soon after (2013). Here, the artist has taken a new direction, carving beach plastic for the first time. She has chosen this piece from Woolamai Surf Beach for its intoxicating vibrance. Blue being the rarest colour to occur in nature, it is nearly impossible to miss in wild places. Sunlight often setting it aglow in a muted landscape, finding blue elicits an emotional response; elation for the eyes is quickly followed by sorrow upon recognising its unnatural origins, and toxic implications. If defiance can be defined as standing up to a challenge, then it is represented three-fold here; plastic debris presents a great threat to marine ecosystems, while from a maker's perspective carving such fragile material requires great care. The final challenge lies with the wearer in holding the sentiments represented by this anthropogenic gemstone. Driven by the desire for clean oceans, Blue Hope encompasses exactly what the title entails – hope for our precious Pacific blue.

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Eclipse Ring

By Sean O' Connell

18ct yellow gold, patinated Shakudo.

Sean O'Connell's 'Eclipse' ring is made from yellow gold and Shakudo, a traditional Japanese alloy of 4% gold and 96% copper, with a dark grey patina.

In Shakudo, the blackened oxide layer forms in normal atmosphere. With frequent contact, parts of the ring may wear back to copper, but when left without contact the dark purplish grey will gradually, defiantly, return ...

This ring features 'scratch like' marks to echo the idea of passing time, like lines scratched on a wall to count the days or years.

Viewed from the side, the ring resembles a celestial eclipse, with a halo of light shimmering at its edge

 Sold



Love & Opposition Earrings

By Amy Renshaw

Blackened sterling silver, sterling silver, 9ct yellow gold, rubies.

On first reflection, the concepts of desire and defiance could seem contrary and non aligned. But at the heart of great desire is often the act of defiance, the thrill of pushing against the norm. But not all acts of defiance are bold, some are small and subtle. The design of these earrings as a mismatched pair, challenges the notion that earrings must be perfectly matched.

Hanging in opposite directions they ask the wearer to question the need for symmetry. The red hue symbolises desire, passion, and love, with the inclusion of floral elements which evoke an association with romantic gestures.

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Yearning Necklace

By Susan Ewington

18ct yellow gold, ombre-toned chrysoberyl, Australian garnet.

Susan has kept this intriguing piece of Chrysoberyl in her collection for a number of years, waiting for a significant moment to be set into a piece of jewellery. The shape is reminiscent of a snake head, a creature that has been intrinsically linked with the concepts of desire and defiance throughout history. The piece contains other subtle serpentine references: Florentine textures, talon-like prongs, a blood red garnet, and of course, a snake chain.

The necklace features a hinge mechanism that allows the gemstone to be flipped and worn inverted, reminiscent of Art Deco 'Day and Night' rings, which have long fascinated the artist. This idea speaks to the essence of contemporary jewellery, which both looks to the past and forges into the future.

 Sold



Desire / Defiance Ring Stack

By Robin Wells

18ct yellow gold, 18ct white gold, 24ct yellow gold Keum-Boo, salt and pepper diamond, black diamonds.

For this ring stack, Robin has employed techniques in defiance of accepted ways of making.

The ancient Korean practice Keum-Boo involves fusing 24ct gold into fine silver. The artist had been told that using the technique to fuse fine gold with 18ct gold was impossible. However, by experimenting with a particular 18ct white gold alloy, Robin has been able to find a way to fuse the paper thin 24ct fine gold to the surface. This creates a beautiful rich surface of white and yellow gold patterning.

The use of salt and pepper and black diamonds challenges the norm of diamond quality in jewellery. Certain components of the ring can be taken apart to entice the wearer to play with different placements on the hand. An enduring, coveted object of desire to wear forever.

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Desire Lines Chain Necklace

By Jo Hawley

18ct yellow gold, sterling silver.

Desire lines - the line of desire. The term speaks of walking, not other types of transport - a very human scale. Speaks of the path chosen not the path prescribed.

In standard use it is often the quickest or most direct route - but what if the line of the desire is not the quickest way to get there? What if it's the scenic route, the long way round, what if it's the one with the most shade, or sun, or the path with the best view or the best coffee, or shelter from the rain. What if it's the one with a seat, or the one that allows you to watch the birds for a minute.

Can our lives have time and space for beauty or quiet so the path you want to take (the line of desire) is not the most direct but the prettiest way, or the quietest, the one that takes you past a window where there's always a cat,
Or allows you to walk with someone
Or to just walk for longer
To put more time and space between A and B



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Tout Moi (All Me) Ring

By Maria Natoli

18ct yellow gold, 18ct white gold, champagne diamond, pink sapphire, rubies.

This idea sparked from looking back at 'toi et moi' (you and me) designs, initially inspired by the ring Napoleon gave his first wife Josephine - a style which has lately had a resurgence in popularity.

Maria wanted to create a ring that didn't rely on there being a 'you'. A ring that only celebrated the 'me'. Using the french phrase 'tout moi' (all me) instead, Maria has created an abstract design ring that, if you look carefully, spells 'moi'.

This concept speaks of personal desire and seeking what we truly want. A celebration of the strength of self and achieving personal goals. A reminder that you are allowed to put yourself first and to speak up for yourself and your desires.

 Sold



The Road Less Travelled Earrings

By Lauren Trojkovic

9ct yellow gold, diamonds, pink ceylon sapphires, rubies.

The 'Road Less Travelled' Earrings are an ode to the notion of finding your own path and writing your own story. Sometimes this might not be the most obvious road. Sometimes it might not be the easiest, and there may be twists and turns along the way.

By going against the grain and taking the 'Road Less Travelled' you might just find surprising moments to cherish along the way, that make the journey all worthwhile.

These earrings explore the journey travelled and the idea that breaking free and making your own way is where the beauty lies.



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iRIS Emerald Cut Ring

By Rhys Turner

18ct yellow gold, Australian sapphire.

Rhys Turner's jewellery career has meandered through various guises, from technician, to lecturer, to working in classic jewellery stores making traditional diamond engagement rings. This ring is a reflection of his journey, and a summation of who he is as a contemporary jeweller.

Drawing on his highly technical skill set, the ring references what has become a signature design in Rhys' work. The cut of the sapphire was developed from a traditional concept with a slight but very effective alteration: a completely flat top and mirror-like surface, creating an optical illusion of endless depth. The stone also features an oblique stroke of light across its face, referencing the diagonal slash that bisects the concepts of desire / defiance.

In this ring, the facets of Rhys' practice come together: it's traditional but it isn't; it's simplified but it isn't; it was created from the desire to be unique.



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Lemniscate Choker I

18ct yellow gold, diamonds, 9ct yellow gold chain.

Lemniscate Choker II

18ct yellow gold, diamonds, 9ct yellow gold chain.

By Krista McRae

These diamond-set choker neckpieces symbolise the intersections of life's twists and turns.

Rich gold is entangled, linking past and future. Harnessing strength from what comes your way, knowing it's your true path and surrendering to it.

Choker necklaces date back thousands of years, first worn by Sumerians in 2000BC. These neckpieces were sometimes thought to be protective and embedded with special powers. In more recent times, the choker has been associated with both defiance and desire.



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Narciso Earrings

By Juan Castro

9ct yellow gold, Australian green sapphires.

These earrings are designed in a Hercules Knot, featuring two entwined ropes, symbolising love and commitment. The Romans used this symbol as a love token, and it was worn during wedding ceremonies.

Juan's placement of the gemstones on the earrings is inspired by the Myth of Narcissus. One twist of the rope mirrors the other, just as Narcissus desired his own reflection.

The earrings represent compromise. A reminder to keep equilibrium, and a warning to avoid fascination with yourself, lest you consume yourself as Narcissus did.

 Sold



Lagoon Ring

By Georgie Brooks

18ct yellow gold, Australian aquamarine

What if we could create something that sat within history but it was from no time at all? It wasn't driven by fashion or dictated by design, but it encapsulated a time or a nod to the past that can't be pin pointed. If it stepped away from the conventional but somehow had something familiar, like it had existed comfortably a long time ago.

For this exhibition, Georgie Brooks subverts the idea of 'timeless' design with the 'Lagoon Ring', featuring a one-off hand-cut Australian aquamarine. A defiant totem created to plot the journey of a lifetime of memories and experiences.

 Purchase



My Path Ring

By Aurelia Yeomans

18ct yellow gold, salt & pepper diamond

In defiance of the tradition of perfect, symmetrical engagement jewellery, this piece is made with the intention of forging one's own unique path.

The diamonds is at an unusual angle, askew from the traditionally centred placement. The large pear diamond is not crisp white, but in fact an unusual soft speckled grey. The band is a textural, faceted and rocky form that reflects a mountain pass or rocky outcrop in which the pear diamond is wedged. A reference to the origins of these stunning natural materials: the beautiful, imperfect forms of our earth and the journey of our relationships that take us on self directed, surprising and often unconventional paths of desire and discovery.

 Purchase



Path of a Star Necklace

By Sarah Heyward

Fused fine silver, sterling silver, 18ct yellow gold, South Australian star smoky quartz.

Swirling moons of fused silver and gold orbit the smoky quartz star. The star's path is formed as the natural radiation, emitted from the surrounding rock, activates color centers around aluminum impurities within the crystalline quartz. The rare star formation in this piece of Australian smoky quartz signifies a desire line extending over thousands of years.

While we think about stars in our galaxy as static, they do have their own motion. The earth moves and the stars track across the sky, twinkling due to atmospheric winds. They move around the centre of the galaxy where we find an exotic collection of objects. The supermassive black hole Sagittarius A, weighing about 4 million times the mass of the Sun. Neutron stars and white dwarf stars tearing material from companion stars producing beautiful tendrils of radio emission.



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Black Bangle

Powdercoated mild steel, 9ct yellow gold

Akoya Ring

9ct yellow gold, saltwater Akoya pearl

By Jin ah Jo

For the last 15 years as a represented jeweller at e.getal, Jin ah has focused on subverting the use of industrial materials to create desirable objects. The bangle is made from powdercoated mild steel, featuring a minimal gold line. The accompanying ring features a perforated gold dome holding a pearl.

In this series, Jin ah aims to produce works with less physical clutter, focusing on what can be removed from a design in order to create elegant simplicity. We only have a certain amount of energy, time, and space in our lives. These simple, wearable designs aim to free time and energy for the things that remain.

 Purchase



Neckpiece for Your Dream

Sold

Sterling silver, waxed black twisted plaited cord.

Neckpiece for Your Yearning Dream

Blackened sterling silver, vintage glass beads, waxed black 16 strand braided cord.

Neckpiece for the Dream You Haven't Dreamt Yet

Blackened sterling silver, orange bead, waxed black eight strand braided cord.

By Vikki Kassioras

Taking humble materials and making something beautiful and covetable from them turns the idea of 'precious' on its head. It is the act of making combined with the artist's very personal aesthetic decisions, and the addition of imperfect hand made elements, that make these pieces desirable. They challenge the wearer to make a connection to the piece beyond its material value.

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"The end we like to say is also the beginning." (II)

By Kate Alterio

Lotus seeds with healing balm, matte sterling silver, cotton thread.

This work crosses the boundary of both wearable jewellery and wall installation. Traditionally, Mala beads invite touch and interaction, a tool for mindfulness and prayer. As a wall piece they are at arms length, while retaining their mysticism and sense of the sacred. The lotus seeds have been imbued with a healing balm created by fellow jeweller and healer Fiona Fitzgerald. This adds a beautiful lustre to the beads and a healing intention for the wearer. Kate often explores themes of duality within her work, and this piece is no exception. Silver has long been associated with desire and wealth within the jewellery context while lotus seeds, with their prayerful invitation into stillness and meditation, represent the opposite. Combining these two opposing energies represents a mirror for the world and the dualistic nature of life.

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Kin-Tsukuroi: Revive with Gold Two-Piece Neckpiece

By Kaoru Rogers

10ct yellow gold, 24ct gold leaf, copper leaf, vintage bone and shell beads

For this piece, Kaoru has used natural beads from her vintage jewellery collection, elevating them with handmade gold components and gold foiling, in the spirit of Kintsugi – the Japanese art of mending with gold. This multi-part necklace can be worn as one, or pulled apart to be worn as two separate pieces, referencing 19th century Parure jewellery sets, and the convertible jewellery popular during the great depression. These practices were borne from economic pressure – a parallel Kaoru sees with today's economic uncertainty.

As younger generations fuel the movement to buy less, Kaoru has challenged herself to create something new and beautiful with humble materials. Just as contemporary jewellers have explored alternative materials as a way of looking to the future, here Kaoru plays with assemblage and collected objects to create wearables with the warmth of old and natural materials.



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Off with His Head Brooch

By Anna Davern

Reworked biscuit tin, tin coaster, sterling silver, steel pin.

Anna Davern has been represented at e.g.etal since its first opened its doors in 1998.

While studying at art school, Anna Davern made a series of penannular brooches – a design that is particularly associated with Celtic art – for which she received the critique that Celtic designs are "clichéd and commonplace". For this exhibition, Anna has created a modern penannular brooch in defiance of this view.

Using humour and movement, the wearer is encouraged to play with the brooch, creating desire for interaction.

 Purchase



Bounteous Necklace

By Vicki Mason

Nylon, powdercoated brass, textile pen.

Much as a bee is attracted to the bright colours of flowers, the use of colour in this work serves to draw in and seduce the wearer. With its black rigid metal parts and unruly hot pink and red fringing, the neckpiece speaks to notions of attraction and desirability. Its articulated construction conjures thoughts of hinges and toys with moving parts, and the wearer is encouraged to interact with it, forming patterns of their own making.

The predominantly unconventional materials used are elevated through creative manipulation and innovation to form a desirable work of art that challenges notions of preciousness and how value is assigned to materials. Wearer interactivity pushes the boundaries of jewellery's intended use: not only as adornment, but also for play.



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She's Complicated

By Cass Partington

Blackened sterling silver



Pasties became popular in the 1920s to prevent dancers from breaking anti-topless laws. The addition of tassels and gems added extra spectacle. They tested the limits of censorship laws and were therefore an act of civil disobedience without lawbreaking. A workaround for the suppressive culture of the times. More recently they have become a statement accessory that speaks to the current ethos of body positivity that encourages women to love their bodies.

These handmade pasties are made to be hung on a wall but can also be worn as brooches. Defiant and armor-like, they reference desire through their relationship to dance, stripping, burlesque and sex work.



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Desire Necklace

By Justine Austen

Sterling silver, fibre optic glass

In this piece, Justine investigates the weight of desires in varying guises. The work evokes a journey, echoing the dashed line that runs down the middle of a road.

This five metre long oversized necklace uses fibre optic glass beads and handmade silver components to spell out synonyms for desire in morse code: love, inclination, aching, avidity, yearning, thirst, hankering, longing, lusted, lust, wish, pining, craving, aspiration, fancy, fervour, covet, need, yen.

These desires are coded, with their meanings hidden and subverted, thus taming them - with the wearer able to layer and use them to ornament the body.

 Sold



Small Henny's Playground Necklace

Sterling silver, painted copper, cord.

Large Henny's Playground Necklace

Sterling silver, painted copper, cord.

 Sold

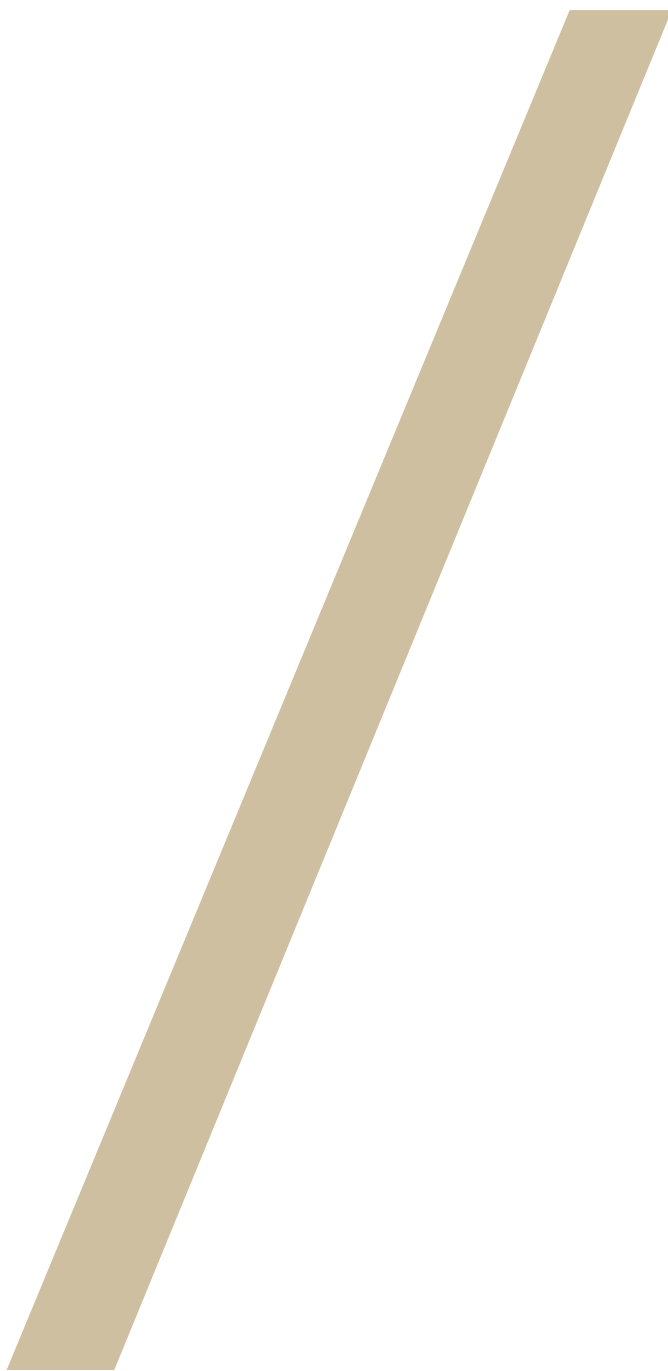
By Jane Frances Reilly

There's something about 'play' as an adult that is defiant.

Jane has sought refuge in this act of play to help her grieve. As we age, we lose our foundations when our parents die. The artist has drawn herself back to childhood to find her new base.

This play also reflects Jane's desire to create beauty within the sadness. To adorn ourselves with memory.

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