MA : DESIGN

CERAMICS  FURNITURE  JEWELLERY
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INTRODUCTION

MA Design is a two year, project-based masters during which students focus on a visionary project of their devising. It is always exciting and interesting for the staff team to work alongside such researchers and we are naturally proud of the work our graduates do and their future careers. Many have made a world-class impact already even though the course is only 14 years old.

We believe that what makes a graduate from MA Design; Ceramics, Furniture or Jewellery particularly important is that they not only conceive, research and design but also deliver fully realised objects. What you see are not sketches, not models, but the real deal, beautifully realised. Globally aware design allied to the skills our graduates deliver is increasingly rare in the present climate.

As a research masters program, MA Design; Ceramics, Furniture or Jewellery requires its students to spend their two years with us researching, defining and developing the work that you see implemented and on display in our graduate show. We are seeking individuals who have a personal vision and the determination, talent and curiosity to ensure that it is delivered. This happens through hard work.

So, as Course Director and on behalf of my colleagues, I am delighted that you have chosen to join us in celebrating this year’s thoroughly international cohort of visionaries. As a course that has, at its root, a passionate combination of design and craft in all their manifestations, I think you can clearly see how many differing and wide-ranging ways this cohort believes that production can come in many forms. From the hand made to digital frontiers, this awareness is important for all of our futures and future aspirations. Aspirational, because many of the objects in this year’s show are both desirable and extraordinary, and because, if you are tracking the careers of our past alumni, you will already know that these will indeed become some of the objects of the future.

June 2018
Simon Fraser, Course Leader

MA Design; Ceramics
MA Design; Furniture
MA Design; Jewellery
CERAMICS
“Propagule” is a collection of handmade porcelain ‘serve wares’. This collection focuses on the relationship between decorative and functional aspects of containers within our domestic lives. Accentuating the tactile aspect of the objects allows each object of the collection unique characteristics emphasized by hand making.

Celebrating l’Art de vivre, the art of living, this set of wares is designed to punctuate the table landscape, to create new aspects and enjoyment of entertaining.

As a series of containers in different scales, these curious vessels aim to pleautibly surprise users, addressing materiaity through a delicate physical aesthetic. The texture evokes ‘propagules’, ornamental elements punctuating the surface of the object, reminiscent of a living organism evolving and growing onto it. From low key texture to high key dramatic interventions, the pieces show a palette of textures throughout the objects offering differing clients a way to engage with the collection.
Propagule, half collection
Polished porcelain with clear inside glaze
FURNITURE
Minimal ‘Yi’ collection

The rapid development of design cultures across all levels of Chinese society forms the backdrop to this collection. Using a minimal design language the pieces explore and re-interpret elements of traditional Chinese architecture into everyday and functional modern furniture.

Visual references from traditional chairs, moved from three to two dimensions breaks precedent to refresh the audience perspectives. Manufactured from steam bent plywood and metal tubing, the emphasis is on functional connections and diverse chair forms for wider market appeal.

This project sits within the development of urban centres across China and against the ubiquity of their generic and mass produced ‘global modern’ furniture cultures.
Minimal ‘YI’ 3
Metal and plywood
As a designer, Durán Stone aims to raise our perception and awareness of objects within a space and of the space itself, working with the connections between them. Through the exploration of light and colour, it is possible to incorporate unexpected and unconventional elements that can change the ambience of a room or setting as well as our experience within it.

Light and colours affect our well being consciously or subconsciously and when used in combination with the personality of each object, they can influence our moods taking us anywhere from tranquility to playfulness and joy. In this way, objects and furniture become a transitory reflection of the surrounding space in a given moment.

The pieces in the Bo’oy Collection (meaning shadow in the Mayan language) consist of reflective and transparent coloured forms which go beyond their functional purpose to enhance the space in which they are placed.

The sculptural, abstract and colourful elements of the pieces trigger the senses, bringing surprise, curiosity, fun and change into everyday spaces. The moveable acrylic pieces can be arranged in infinite compositions and reveal themselves in different ways depending on the light and position in which they are placed; through this uniqueness their form and essence go beyond the idea of furniture.

Woolis console
Acrylic

Sáas shelf unit
Acrylic
Generation move

This furniture project combines artistic values and utility, and aims to generate a form of collaboration between the user and the work of the designer. The project looks at both themes of longevity and ‘user involvement’ within the design of furniture.

The collection is inspired by a universal need for self-expression and our developed-world creation of identity through our relationship with possessions. The project examines this relationship and how it relates to our individual needs and the demands of modern society.

The project explores different forms of furniture. The result aims to be both aesthetically and functionally playful. The individual pieces are heavily stylized, allowing their appearance to be ‘tuned’ by the user.

The millennial cabinet explores ‘surface’ design. By manipulating the pivoted decorative elements, the visual effect of the cabinet changes. This surface variability aims to relate either to the contents within, the space it occupies, or to the taste of the owner.

Milennial
Solid ash cabinet, rotating panels of coloured tulipwood veneer
Milennial

Solid ash cabinet, rotating panels of coloured tulipwood veneer
Movement celebrates life and it is, although not obvious at first sight, encouraged by every object of this furniture collection. The collection embodies two different pathways of exploring elastic wooden furniture. The unexpected flexible and sprung reaction of the plywood seats supports the user’s natural balance and fulfils the body’s need for movement.

A family of stools, fun objects for everyday use from desk work till dining, allow tilting and twisting movements. Their symmetric shapes and the absence of backrests encourage the sitter to explore different sitting positions. While the ‘minimal material’ thickness allows the plywood pieces to bend and twist when charged, the high tensile strength of birch wood withstands high loads and makes the stools suitable for different weights and sizes. ‘Aera’ forms a second aspect of the collection, presenting a woven plywood structure, adaptable to the body’s weight and shape by allowing smaller deformations within its volumes. For floor use, indoors or outdoors it delivers a robust, sprung support, easily mounted on a bench frame, where it provides space for two people.

The fragmented arrangement of plywood pieces offers different forms through bending, compression and stretching. MOWO is suitable for home, office or hospitality uses and offers efficient scalability for larger production volumes.

CC2 Stool
Birch plywood, cord

CC1 Stool
Birch plywood, cord

C3 High Stool
Birch plywood, cord, tulipwood
Aera

Birch plywood, powdercoated steel, leather
JEWELLERY
Ginga deriving from the Brazilian expression ‘something that comes from the soul of the Brazilian, a movement and creativity with the body’. It’s a way to move. Brazilian culture is famous for appreciating the female body as its natural form. It celebrates the nude in many ways as sensual as it can be. Built from the pillars fluidity, sensuality and empowerment, this jewellery collection promotes the unique beauty each woman possesses, enabling wearers to feel confident and sensual.

The collection consists of fine jewellery pieces composed from over-arching and sensually curved lines fitted with unique cut gemstones.

The forms were achieved by searching for lightness in big volumes when translating the natural sensuality of body curves into jewellery.

Ring squeezing lines
18k gold, amethyst

Earrings bubbles
18k gold

Necklace dropping
18k gold
Inspired by the nonchalant attitude of Parisians, how they act and their relationship with style and fashion; VICE//VERSA is a collection designed for this internationally followed style tribe and those who may want to join them. Parisians operate duplicitously in the attitude they present to the world, one founded on a contrast between how they want to appear and how they actually see themselves.

VICE//VERSA is a unisex collection designed as a tool for the wearer to highlight style and personality. This duality is present in the whole collection emphasized in the binary elements of each piece.

Each has a different colour, shape, scale and finishing, which will bring a different vision of the object based on the viewpoint that you are looking for. This duality in the design is present in each piece with each piece detailed on its inside and/or back.

VICE//VERSA follows duality in the production of the collection with the contrast between its making and its the ‘street styling’ inspiration. The collection has been made in a small fine jewellery “atelier” in Paris; a type of making usually used for fine and high-end jewellery. For Enkaoua, this high crafting brings Parisian production values to the detailing aspects of the collection.
V/V Mix Big Earrings
V/V Mix Chain
V/V Double cuff
Sterling silver and 24k gold vermeil

V/V Mix Small Earrings
V/V Dual Necklace
V/V Double Bracelet
Sterling silver and 24k gold vermeil
Pusaka, meaning treasure or heirloom in Sanskrit, is a silver filigree jewellery collection inspired by Indonesian batik iconography and Master-craftsmanship.

With a narrative that stems from the journey of Indonesia batik to the heart of its modern society, Pusaka highlights the dilemma for today’s batik community. Sustainability and survivability of Indonesia handcrafted batik in this global era, is at risk due to the popularity of knock-offs created by the big textile and garment industries. Pusaka rejects the modern culture of mass production and mass consumption by utilizing traditional hand skills and technique to create smaller numbers of individual pieces.

Re-constructing elements found in Indonesia traditional batik pattern using structures from plants and buildings, Charmain reinvents ancient local traditions then explores them through jewellery. Co-designing and collaborating with his local filigree master-craftsman from Kotagede, Indonesia, Chairman has invented a new filigree technique rooted in the traditional way of making.

Recycled sterling silver has been chosen to build this body of work due to its malleable and light characteristic. This offers a collection delighting in voluminous yet light Jewellery pieces that express the organic movement and delicate qualities found in handcrafted batik.
Kirana Earrings, Komala & Kuja Hair Piece
Recycled sterling silver
‘La Dolce Vite’ is a collection inspired by the icons of Italian design with a contemporary twist. It has a fresh, playful aesthetic, characterised by unusual structures, audacious textures, and inventive mechanisms. By questioning the status quo of traditional jewellery and Made in Italy manufacturing processes, Neri applies an innovative perspective, turning jewellery inside out. The design language appears as a composition of streamlined curves held together or challenged by contrasting mechanical elements, where soft sections and harder engineered details balance each other out, offering a surprising sense of tension.

Composed from cabochon stones, kinetic elements, and contrasting coloured golds, these unconventional pieces embody a modern sensuality, the essence of Italian creativity. The title ‘La Dolce Vite’ sounds like a reference to classic Italian cinema, although it is also a game of words: ‘vite’ is the Italian for ‘screw’, the main feature within this innovative setting system.

**Vite Mia Ring**  
Sterling silver, gold, steel, turquoise

**Il(c)onico Ring**  
Sterling silver, gold
I(C)ONICO, SI O NO AND VITE MIA RINGS
Sterling silver, gold, steel, turquoise, coral
‘Invitation to the Secrets of Flowers’ is a play on the beauty and enigma of flowers. In a long global history of human fascination and interest, flowers have been elevated to great levels of symbolism becoming expressions of celebration, courtship or sympathy, connecting flowers to art and daily life, funerary rites, religion, and wider ceremonies.

It may be that human’s commune with flowers, as flowers have the life cycle that evokes our life.

The endowment of flowers with mysterious and supernatural properties, in particular of rebirth, associated with human kind’s ultimate desire for immortality or revival remains strong. Hagio’s jewellery engages with this mystic beauty and power of flowers, seeking to empower her wearers.

Her pieces are created in silver and gold using artisanal and traditional Japanese techniques known as Tankin and Chokin. This allows Hagio to explore in metal fragile or enigmatic forms inspired by the anatomy flowers creating jewellery that seeks to deliver its own mysterious secrets.
Medium
Sterling silver and 22ct goldplating
Chroma

‘Chroma’ celebrates the stunning characteristics and beauty of graphically patterned stones not traditionally used in fine jewellery. Payne seeks to reshape perspectives as part of a global reassessment of the value of ‘non-precious’ stones as a decorative resource.

In the first installment from this ‘global nomad’ jeweller, Payne takes us on a journey from the Australian wilderness to the ancient forests of Indonesia and the oceans of Madagascar to discover the rare and unusual stones collected by artisanal miners who hold fascinating local knowledge.

The collection is defined by a purity of form, achieved through custom cut stones, which also offer sensuously tactile surfaces to the wearer. Carefully considered harmonies and contrasts of colour and pattern synthesise the stones with their gold and gem set mounts.

The collection offers a journey of discovery and a new appreciation for preciousness through a deeper understanding of rarity. Each stone is associated with a different landscape, connecting location, memory and experience within a contemporary jewel.

Laguna Earrings
18ct gold, jasper, seraphinite

Silica Earrings
18ct gold, peanut wood, agate
Mookaite Ring
18ct gold, jasper
This collection using natural light reflection in custom-cut gemstones, visually references the angled lines found in the architecture of cityscapes and deep carved lines in stone and concrete. Translucent Agate and transparent Quartz are combined with a wide array of transparent coloured stones. Originally from Munich, where no building is taller than the city centre church, Kraus’s fascination is sparked by the angled lines of skyscrapers against the ever-changing sky. The soft light reflections within the hand carved stones contrast with the precise visual geometries of the regular cut gems. Altitude and elevation are central aspects in the pieces, each gemstone being either angled to or away from the body and the wearers gaze. Visual effects transpire that flicker and change when the pieces are worn.

Each piece explores the relationship between idea, design, maker and material, using hand-craft traditional techniques and tools. Kraus believes in a fundamental connection between an object and the process of how it was made.

In hand making, maker and material, idea and its realisation are more closely linked and counter a sense of disconnection from the tangible experience in modern times. Jewellery becomes more relatable when origin and production are comprehensible. The collection is aimed at women who look for one-off pieces or a bespoke alternative as a modern heirloom.
Clarity Ring
Sterling silver, yellow gold plated with green prasolith
Osimo is an Italian Jeweller who aims to create unusual and ironic wearables. She creates pieces of jewellery from combinations of luxury’ materials, exploiting the trust of ‘Handmade in Italy’ and assumptions around the ‘appearances’ of wearable art pieces. Her aim is to become a trustworthy yet ambiguous figure for her clients, gaining their trust during this era of uncertain political and economic futures.

The title, Free Bitch, reflects this idea of making the wearer feel free and strong. From urban slang it characterizes Osimo’s muse “someone who doesn’t care what other people think, free to do what they want, how they want, and whenever they want regardless.”

This collection is made for women who are not afraid to be looked at, while the jewels act both as a shield and a weapon for the wearer towards the rest of the world. They’re for women who buy their own jewels without waiting to receive them as a gift.

Osimo uses a particular material formed from industrial nylon mesh tube, called Crin. A material which allows her to design and realize incredibly light yet majestic pieces due to its ductility, lightness and incredible resistance.

42 (Quarenta Due) Bracelet
18 kt. white & yellow gold, black nylon crin

4 (Quattro) Earrings
Black & white nylon crin
3 (Tre) Ring

AD HOC: ‘Fruit Bowl’

The collection represents a tropical journey that travels from the intriguing nature of fruits through to Pre-Columbian art and symbolism all in the context of sustainability in particular by-products of the emerald. Jewellery components can be selected from Zambrano’s interpretation of a ‘fruit bowl’, influenced by cultural references of her home country Colombia.

The collection aims to elevate the ordinary to the precious playing with the perception of value by juxtaposing and redefining objects and materials. Ad-hoc offers a concept of deconstruction and re-arrangement of interchangeable components. These can be linked in multiple ways to transform and adapt into various forms of jewellery.

Recycled metals such as aluminum, silver and gold and interventions on readymade objects are part of the structure of this abstract ‘fruit bowl’, a composition of fruit shaped artifacts carefully put together to form a mask when looked at from a far, it’s symbolic meaning can be decoded by the user personal choices through a reflective journey that encourages individuality.
In order to translate and share the spirit of her home country, Brazil, Jordan created for herself a fun and innovative approach to jewellery using playfulness as a key element of the work.

Known for its own magical charisma and as a land of spontaneous and fun-loving people, one of Brazil’s most positives aspects is the optimism in people’s identity and of values related to happiness, hope and joy. The collection is framed to enhance a sense of fun by letting the wearer choose how they will wear pieces.

Bracelets can be used as earrings whilst rings can be attached to hoop earrings. With a funky, warm and juicy design, these asymmetric pieces are colourful and bold, bringing attention to those who are wearing it.

Handmade in Brazil, the gold plated rings, earrings and bracelets use irregular beads often formed of specialized hand carved precious and semi-precious stones. The stones create the main characteristic combined with delicate wire frames to outline their beauty. Instantly uplifting and cheerful jewels for wearing everyday.
Wohoo Big Hoop Earring & Lively Ring
Sterling silver
The Desert Blooms is a collection of fine jewellery pieces inspired by the native desert flora of Kuwait. The desert is usually an arid and harsh environment but under the right conditions seeds that have been lying dormant for years grow and blossom all at once creating a magical landscape. For Kuwaitis these desert flowers represent strength, resilience and hope.

Consequently the collection is full of soft curves, sensuous volumes and bright untamed colours.

Alsharhan exploits her extensive knowledge of Kuwait’s jewellery history and of the current market seeking to create a new authentic Kuwaiti jewellery culture. One not trapped in the past, respectful history yet focused on the future of this countries now youthful cultural demographic.

This flow and merging of old and new is reflected in the production of the collection, Alsharhan exploring traditional techniques alongside emerging jewellery technologies. Alsharhan’s passion as a designer is to make fine jewellery for modern women who might appear to be calm and peaceful yet blossom to express themselves loudly and unapologetically celebrating all that is good in life.
Halo Rings & Scribble Bracelet
18k Gold, sapphire
'Samrimryok’ is an attempt to connect with the intensity and sensation of past experiences of nature, particularly seashores, as a healer. Exploiting sensations of touch and the visual qualities of unique hand-cut stones to create symbols of wellbeing and restfulness.

Kim explores the materiality of her chosen pebbles and takes inspiration from the experiences of specific locations where she has been. Kim has collected pebbles for this collection on Mongdol, Chesil, and Brighton beaches.

Sensuously smooth or intriguingly rough, multihued or monochrome, patterned or plain, the stones from each area tell a different story of how it came to be, providing powerful inspiration sources for design. The stones Kim has cut make explicit the value of personal narratives of relaxation, highlighting the power of a visit to the beaches, and the special time with the pebbles that she has designed with.

Each and everyone of us have gathered stones, Kim offers a new way to consider the value of what stones might be in contemporary jewellery. Why buy a mined stone when you and those closest to you can find and set your own through this project.

Free Balance Rings
Silver, raw pebbles and gemstone cut pebbles
Free Balance Bangles
Silver, gemstone cut pebbles and raw pebbles
Helictotrichon

This collection is inspired by the bonsai tree. A plant whose conflicted beauty emanates from the tension between the rigorous forming process and the final natural aesthetic which conceals the artificial. The process reveals human confidence in our power over nature, whilst the final form reflects our consideration for it, epitomizing the grower’s own personal creative expression and self-restraint.

With this as background, the theme for the collection is the ring featuring innovatively mounted jade stones, a stone traditionally used to project power and strength. The orthodoxies of such rings are for Zhang a metaphor for trees and the basis for new accessories, just like a tree is shaped to become a bonsai.

Using inspirations from wearing jewellery in daily life and the history of European jewellery forms allow Zhang to explore new ideas. ‘I am deconstructing and regenerating jade rings in a manner which I hope to be incongruous yet restrained.

Through a new generation of jewellery, incorporating gold, silver, pearl, gems, diamonds, dried flowers, as well as the jade itself, I hope to share what “value” means to me. Consequently the ‘value’ of each jade piece ‘distorts’ my jewellery design process and therefore of the ring itself. Each piece helps me explore my psyche, then stands for itself, building a connection with the person wearing it’.

Rings
Jadite, sterling Silver.
Earrings
Jadite, sterling Silver
What or Who: Jewellery for Contemporary Homo Narrans

“I love it because it is like my beaming face just before eating delicious food in front of me.” John Niles described humankind as Homo Narrans, storytellers. In the digital era, flooded with information, we are truly living in a world full of stories. The digital platform such as social media allows individuals to tell their stories however trivial. However, each and every story is subtly different through experience, culture and background.

The collection ‘What or Who’ creates a platform for telling personal narratives through jewellery. Inspired by pareidolia, which is ‘to unconsciously create something meaningful in a meaningless shape’ formed the background to this work.

In this jewellery collection playing with abstract forms can offer recognizable faces to be worn as earrings, brooches or necklaces. By invoking faces and exploring how they might interact with viewers, individuals can differentiate themselves by self-created narratives.

Ready Made Face Earring
18k gold plated sterling silver, red garnet, black agate

Ready Made Face Brooch
White gold plated sterling silver, black agate, white cubic zirconia
Brooch Set
White gold plated sterling silver,
Freshwater pearl, limestone, red garnet cubic zirconia
Whisper/
My little monsters

This project is intended to introduce some romance to daily life in this crowded, bustling and stressful world with musical jewellery.

The two collections respond to the wearers activities by sound making, exploiting touch sensors and micro-electronics offering different emotional experiences through visual and aural design. The collection “Whisper” a series of silver earrings, plays soothing sounds through a touch/prompt button. By combining design with the melodious sounds, the jewellery portrays a secret world, whispering close to your ears a gentle romantic poem. It smoothes your emotions and creates a moment that belongs to you.

The collection “My little monsters” is inspired by daily life and imagination to create a wide-based narrative which has options to explore through jewellery and in the future, animation. Each monster has a different look, name, job and personality. Each has a ‘home town’ where they live and operate monster businesses. Created with hand and machine embroidery and a specifically designed audio module, every monster offers nearly 100 individual responses. Wearers can upload their own sounds using a SD card. As you wear your monster, they accompany you, bring smiles and pleasure to your friends with their funny expressions and deeply sincere words.

My Little Monsters Brooches
Embroidery, audio modules, SD card and other electronic components
Whisper Earrings
Silver, touch sensor and other electronic components
“Have you really felt a natural world, a world full of various types of beautiful wildlife? I can only say that I have seen a small part of it, some of the last parts left behind in the process of urbanization. They are to me, unforgettable”.

This era is witnessing the rapid urbanization and the separation between humans and nature. “Our future is set to be urban“, the media proudly reports. Nevertheless, for the individuals who have wonderful memories of or yearnings for nature and animals, the crazy urban environment actually leaves a sense of emptiness, loneliness and insecurity. So how might we fill this emotional gap?

Jewellery as a close decoration with the human body also carries emotional communication and self-expression. Cui’s jewellery collection Animated Companion takes visual inspiration from the active postures of some familiar animals. Different characters in the collection and various ways of assembly encourage the client to create their own narratives and show their personality. Through designing the flexible connections and hidden mechanisms in the pieces to increase the interactivities with the wearer, the designer hopes that this collection will accompany the client just like eternal friends.
Animated Companion
Gold-plated brass
Wang’s project started with the observation and research into the frequent social events around identity that are a characteristic of contemporary European cultures. Events like gay prides, festivals, marches and gatherings. From this standpoint he explores an understanding of personal identities and social values. He questions, from a jeweler’s perspective, sexual identity, dress codes and how jewelry can participate in these discourses.

The ‘Infinite S’ collection explores sexuality in a wide range of forms, materials and outcomes. Wang draws upon Asian and Western historical depictions of sex, of taboos and openness through a soft-erotic vocabulary of sensuality and restraint.

Synthesizing Asian and Western influences through extensive research into knotting from fishing and farming communities on both sides of the globe provides a cultural bridge into the production of these pieces.

The concept plays out through shapes of gender-neutral jewelry and jewelry-like objects to discover new wearable potentials. Wang seeks to prove that contemporary art jewelry still keeps and defines the core values of our modern lives.
Brooch / Earring
Sterling silver, freshwater pearls, stainless steel, black gold plated
Since we entered the age of digital, emoji has become a visual symbolic language, which is gradually growing deeper into many peoples’ life. It offers a way not to have to speak but to share your thoughts to others who can simply observe. ‘Emoticon’, Li’s collection seeks to offer a new way to express your emotions.

‘Emoticon’ is a project that explores the emotional experience of living in cities, offering a thoughtful and humorous reflection on the changing facial expression of feelings from the banal to the intimate through the language of emoticons and rhythms of city lives. Inspired by the deceptive simplicity of modern communication in city, Li hopes to recount differing emotional contents and conduct a kind of speechless dialogue and exchange with the spatial wearers and observers in design.

The vivid faces, passed through a 3D print technology have divided and distorted into separate parts. Li reunites them into narratives, into delicate, unexpected jewellery forms to tell a story of the emotional experience of our lives in city.
NECKLACE
Sterling silver. Platinum plated
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