



CONTEMPORARY ART JEWELLERY

Autumn 2014

Images and Jewellery Object

Jewellery and photography have been working hand in hand for more than 150 years now. The exhibition *Multiple Exposures: Jewellery and Photography*, held this summer at the MAD in New York, was the first retrospective of its kind to be staged by a museum, underlining the role of photography as an integral part of jewellery creation.

Ever since the 1960s, creators of contemporary jewellery have seen this medium as an ideal partner for placing their work in context. Used as a promotional vehicle or as documentation, photography has mainly served to support their research work, as well as being an effective means of communicating their artistic approach to the public and, over time, linking the subject to the object, notably through art photos or videos.

The act of bringing contemporary jewellery creator Nelly Van Oost (FR) and photographer Jose Bravo (SP) together with visual artist Jacques Verdier (FR) constitutes a Meeting. For Nelly and Jose it is also a Response, the outcome of their artistic search across our day-to-day living spaces, which are themselves rife with meetings. To these two, photography is both a tool and a response, emphasising the experience of relationships.

As a critical, self-reflexive practice, contemporary jewellery tends to shed the notion of preciousness and to constantly question the body as both subject and limit. Through her sculptural, expansionist language, Nelly pursues a relational aesthetic and pushes back a little further the limits that she has already explored.

How can the impalpable be rendered? How can it be given form? To her, it is just meetings, moments, situations – not yet thoughts. Offloading and forgetting about the camera...

To him, it is about capturing the essence of these connections. Following that essence, watching it, studying its behaviour, photographing it. So Jose's snapshots help Nelly to shape the immaterial. To create forms that are both ethereal and weighted. Then to offload again and forget about...

In response to this exchange, which began in 2011, she uses connective pieces, tailored to live models, as symbols of linkage to the vessels of our intimate universes. When worn, these pieces reveal their full meaning: the alchemy of meetings, as gold glistens when it comes into contact with others.

It is worth noting that most of the Belgian artists selected for this autumn's European Triennial of Contemporary Jewellery use photography or video in their artistic offerings. I look forward to sharing with you and discussing, among other things, the topic of Images and Jewellery Objects, during these forthcoming events that I am supporting:

Rencontre: Louise DS Galerie, Brussels, 10-26 October 2014 – opening reception on 10 October
(Collaboration with Sylvie Derumier, Director Louise DS Galerie)

European Triennial of Contemporary Jewellery: WCC-BF, Mons, 25 October to 28 December 2014
(Curator for the Belgian selection)

Jewellery object: for your eyes only? Day of lectures at WCC-BF, Mons, 25 October 2014.
(Collaboration with Anne Leclercq, Director WCC-BF, Mons)