

Making a Mark: Collecting Contemporary Metalwork

An exhibition celebrating the legacy of Dr Helen Cargill Thompson in partnership with the Glasgow School of Art

Running from Monday 15th – Saturday 20th September 2025
at Lyon & Turnbull: 22 Connaught Street, London W2 2AF

Part of London Design Festival & Mayfair Design District

Making a Mark offers a rare glimpse into the world of contemporary silver and metalwork through the extraordinary collection of the late Dr Helen Cargill Thompson, now bequeathed to the Glasgow School of Art. Visitors will discover pieces that are not only exquisite in craftsmanship but also deeply personal and provocative, inviting a fresh appreciation of silver as a vibrant, contemporary art form.

Dr Cargill Thompson, a respected librarian and passionate patron of the arts, nurtured a lifelong commitment to contemporary craft. Her collection reflects not only exquisite artistry but also a profound support for innovation and the next generation of makers, many of whom were notable alumni and tutors from the GSA. From the intricate hand engraving of Karen Wallace to the sculptural jewellery of Jack Cunningham, the works on display explore silver's expressive potential.

Philip Smith, Lyon & Turnbull's London Director, remarks:

"Contemporary silver is undergoing a quiet revolution - one that speaks not only through form and function, but through the mark of the maker. Making a Mark celebrates silver as a medium of expression and experimentation, and reveals how today's silversmiths are challenging tradition to create objects that are deeply personal, tactile, and resonant. This exhibition is a rare opportunity to see how collecting in this field can be as much about supporting innovation and artistic intent as it is about acquiring beauty and craft."

Alan Horn, Director of Development at the Glasgow School of Art comments,

"The Glasgow School of Art is most grateful to Lyon & Turnbull for their partnership in this exhibition, which brings a small fraction of the Helen Cargill Thompson bequest to the

School into public view. Helen was a dedicated champion of craft and supporter of generations of makers and her bequest stands as testament to that lifelong commitment to artists and designers. We have ambitious plans to make all of this unique collection accessible as a resource for teaching, research and future exhibitions, subject to securing funding, and we are particularly grateful to Lyon & Turnbull, and The Cargill Trusts and Friends of Glasgow Museums who have already made such generous contributions,”

The exhibition coincides with the London Design Festival and Mayfair Design District celebrations, and explores the creative boundaries pushed by the silversmiths Helen championed. The collection is on loan from the Glasgow School of Art and has never been exhibited before in London.

Notes for Editor:

About the Exhibition

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.lyonandturnbull.com/events/collecting-contemporary-metalwork-london>

Image Captions: Being finalised

For press enquiries, images or interviews, please contact:

- Rowan Aplin, rowan.aplin@lyonandturnbull.com
- 07467953139 or 0207 930 9115

About Lyon & Turnbull

Operating since 1826, Lyon & Turnbull is a premier fine art and antiques auction house, with venues in London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. The company has one of the largest teams of specialists in the UK, offering services nationwide.

Hosting over 50 specialist auctions per year across their locations, there is always something to see at Lyon & Turnbull—from jewellery and watches to fine furniture; traditional British and European art to Modern & Contemporary stars; European decorative arts and design to fine Asian art from China and Japan. About Lyon & Turnbull.

www.lyonandturnbull.com

About the Glasgow School of Art (GSA)

The Glasgow School of Art (GSA) is internationally recognised as one of Europe’s leading independent university-level institutions for education and research in the visual creative disciplines. Their studio-based, specialist, practice-led teaching, learning and research draw talented individuals with a shared passion for visual culture and creative production from all over the world. Originally founded in 1845 as one of the first Government Schools of Design, the School’s history can be traced back to 1753 and the establishment of the Foulis Academy delivering a European-style art education. Today, the GSA is an international



community of over 3500 students and staff across architecture, design, fine art, innovation and technology in our campuses in Glasgow and Altyre (in the Scottish Highlands) and a thriving Open Studio programme delivering non-degree provision to over 1500 students annually.

<https://www.gsa.ac.uk/>