

Dear Handshake 2,

Liza, Teya and Merilyn would like to thank you for a wonderful exhibition. It certainly received a fabulous response from both the jewellers and also the general public. We were very lucky to have a review in the Sydney Morning Herald including an image of Sarah Walker-Holt's, which made for a very busy final day. We were thrilled to meet many of you and I think it made for a great opening to have so many of the artists present.

What a fabulous opening, we went through 24 bottles of wine which means that there were 144 glasses of wine served and not everyone drinks wine. We think that the timing of the opening was brilliant as we were the final destination of the "Triad" of openings. It was a party!!

Peter has asked for some feedback and we are happy to provide it.

Comments from the general public were very enthusiastic, they especially enjoyed your use of materials. The exhibition had a particular feel and I believe this is because it was ostensibly made from natural and recycled materials, there was virtually no polished metals it was certainly obvious that the work was conceptually based.

From our perspective, works which had in their artist's statements a more decipherable code engaged people who were less familiar with contemporary wearable art. Visual literacy is something that we take for granted but in a field such as ours, everything they see is new. For this reason the Artist Statement is crucial.

We have found from our posting on Facebook that if words are included with images, we have a much greater "Like" response. People love reading about the Artist's intentions, it is a way of giving a clue into your work. A key to understanding.

From a jewellery perspective, we found that the quality of your work was pretty high, good pins on the brooches etc. It is the pragmatic reality that unlike a painting, jewellery must be worn, so it must be able to be taken off and on over and over. Even though we have a pretty enlightened buying public, they still expect it to work and are pretty unimpressed if something breaks the 2nd time it is worn. Just keep this in mind.

General Advice

For all your future exhibitions, don't forget your deadlines, it is really important from a gallery perspective, they are working ahead of time to market your exhibition, especially with a large group of participants, so the earlier you can get information to the gallery the better.

Keep in contact with your gallery - having been practicing artist's we know that sometimes it is very daunting to call or email the gallery if you have any questions, but please don't hesitate to call. It is great to have a chat and become familiar with each other prior to the opening of the exhibition, so don't be shy. The gallery/artist relationship is a team one and hopefully one that will last years.

We hope this helps in your forthcoming shows - please don't hesitate to call us if you have any further questions or you want some personal feedback regarding your work.

We have sent all the work back to you and hopefully you will have received your parcels by now.

Thank you again Peter and Hilde for all your efforts.

Good luck with your next exhibition,

All the best

Merilyn, Liza and Teya

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