

## Inspirations

# Aluminium art jewellery



Inspired by a sculptural pun in his garden, Michael Peckitt has created a range of colourful aluminium jewellery. By Kira Withers Jones

**A**s a self-employed artist, I devote my entire time to creating my pieces and spend every day in my workshop from early morning. I also have some indispensable contacts with other makers who, also working by hand, help with some of the finishing stages of my jewellery, and I am constantly developing my designs.

For years my artistic interests lay dormant, although I was a keen collector of art, but eventually I decided upon a Foundation Course

at the University of Gloucestershire. It was here that I discovered the fascinating possibilities of painting, and I went on to complete a BA with Honours in Fine Art. I then attended the School of Jewellery in Birmingham for two years, gaining a Post Graduate Diploma, and it

was there that I found my true vocation: to make very colourful jewellery. As a fine artist, I take inspiration from all around me and do not work from patterns. My

garden is host to a collection of thyme flower sculptures which play on the obvious visual pun of the clock face and "thyme". These inspired me in the creation of these unique bangles, earrings and pendant whose patterns reflect these clock face motifs. Due to the process I undertake when making my jewellery, the patterning is implied and vague rather than literal. Drawing on my training in fine art painting, I



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work colour into my unique jewellery accessories. I do this by taking a sheet of metal and painting on it using dyes, leaving some areas of the metal unpainted. I then dip the painted metal into a vat of a single colour of dye which pulls all the painted colours together to make one complete painting. This background colour is also the colour that can be seen on the inside of the bangle.

I treat the metal so that the painting is permanently fixed into it. This is possible because the anodised metal absorbs the dyes just like blotting paper absorbs ink. This means that the painting becomes permanent and will not, in any circumstances, wipe off. I then take the sheet and carefully polish the surface until I achieve the desired shine.

I then look at my painting and, taking inspiration from how the dyes have been absorbed into the metal, decide what shapes to cut in order to make my jewellery. It is this process that makes each piece of jewellery totally unique, dynamic-looking, and a very wearable piece of art.

Having cut the metal I form it into the desired shapes and then finish each one by hand. I achieve the look of a framed painting in the jewellery by



Michael contemplates his art in his inspirational garden



MICHAEL PECKITT

## Time flowers

making the edges of the pieces serve as frames and do not colour edges deliberately for this reason.

The bangles also undergo a special process which gives most of them a very special quality. If you look into the bangle beneath direct light, the light is refracted within the surface of the metal. This means that, as the bangle is moved, the light runs up and down inside it giving my jewellery a unique attractiveness.

I plan to export more of my work across the world and build up a multi-media travelling exhibition consisting of paintings, installations, jewellery and a digital photography slideshow.

## resources

To buy Michael's jewellery or for a list of stockists visit: [www.michaelpeckitt.com](http://www.michaelpeckitt.com)



Colourful anodised aluminium jewellery