

Southern Charms: New Power Jewellery across the Pacific

AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – CHILE – BOLIVIA

How do we design objects that will provide luck where it is needed today?

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The exhibition

Expressions of interest are called for a touring exhibition that seeks to open new doors across the Pacific for jewellers and artists.

Southern Charms is an exhibition of 'power jewellery' that demonstrates the relevance of objects to everyday needs. It includes work designed by jewellers, designers and artists from Australia, New Zealand, Chile and Bolivia. The exhibition will include the following:

- Lucky objects designed for contemporary needs
- Documentation of their use (including diaries, photographs and video)
- A shop for visitors to purchase works
- Collections of historical charms, including vintage charm bracelets
- A tour within Australia and to New Zealand and Latin America
- Website and catalogue
- Opening early 2012 at RMIT Gallery Melbourne (date to be confirmed)

The exhibition has several aims:

- To promote the design skills of individual jewellers, artists and designers, offering exposure and retail opportunities
- To explore a connection between contemporary jewellery and the traditional function of ornament
- To establish dialogue between jewellers across the Pacific, providing fresh stimulus
- To consider the positive role of chance in our lives, and the role of design in making space for fate to occur

The brief

The brief is to design a charm that is relevant to modern living. This is an object that provides support during a time of uncertainty, both danger and hope. These can include a range of circumstances:

- Local risks, such as earthquake, bushfire, flooding
- Collective risks, such as climate change
- Personal risks, such as sitting for a job interview or undergoing medical treatment

The charm can include the following elements:

- It can be worn on the body or placed in a specific location such as a doorway
- A particular text that serves as a verbal charm (e.g., 'Follow what's best for everyone.')
- Instructions as to how it be used (particular actions in certain circumstances)
- Story of its provenance

Designing a charm has particular challenges:

- The wearer has to have faith that the object is special.
- The object needs to fit well into an everyday context.
- Beyond the object itself, there is a need to consider how it is given and how it is used

Applications

Applications to be part of this exhibition are due on 4 December 2010. They should include:

- Concept drawing of the charm
- Methodology for documenting its operation
- Explanation of how the object will work
- Curriculum Vitae
- Six images of previous work

Participants in this exhibition will have their work widely disseminated, including the new jewellery blog www.jewelleryconcerns.net, the May 2011 SNAG conference USA, www.craftunbound.net as well as the publications associated directly with the exhibition. There will be potential to sell versions of the charms with the exhibition.

The exhibition is planned to open at RMIT Gallery in February 2012. Works will need to be completed by October 2012 to ensure adequate documentation. Opportunities for artists to attend the showing of their work at various touring venues will be encouraged.

It is recommended that you stay up to date with the project by regularly visiting the website www.craftunbound.net/projects/southern-charms. This will include new information and related stories.

Expressions of interest are due **4 December 2010**. Please send them as electronic files to Kevin Murray at kevin@kitezh.com. For file sizes over 5mb, it is recommended that you use a service such as You Send It.

Please feel free to make contact beforehand with provisional ideas for feedback.