

Graduate Metal 13

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Graduate Metal 13 is an award exhibition of final year works from recent graduates. Hosted by the Jewellers and Metalsmiths Group of Australia (JMGA) Queensland Chapter Inc., the exhibition is a feature in the satellite program of the 2013 JMGA biennial conference, Participation + Exchange. This is the thirteenth graduate award exhibition to coincide with a JMGA biennial conference and it is the third time Graduate Metal been hosted in Queensland.

Graduate Metal is a key JMGA initiative that fosters emerging talent and draws attention to the achievements of recent graduates. From a graduate's perspective, the exhibition offers the opportunity to show their best final-year work in a major exhibition. They and others can see their work in the context of what has been produced by their peers from Australia and New Zealand. The exhibited works stand as testimony to what has interested, motivated and captivated students in their final year of study.

For the exhibition viewer, the exhibition offers the unique opportunity to see first hand the works that are emerging from TAFE, university and polytechnic studios. In 2000, I wrote in the introductory catalogue essay for *Graduate Metal 8*, "The exhibition provides an insight into recent directions in jewellery and metalsmithing education, and allows a glimpse of the strengths, diversity and direction of future practice." Thirteen years later, and currently an educator at a university, I can see that this still holds true. I am also conscious that there are fewer institutions represented by graduates in this 2013 exhibition, a clear reflection that fewer tertiary institutions are offering study in jewellery and metalsmithing.

Graduate Metal 13 is a juried survey exhibition. To be eligible for consideration, graduates needed to enter works created in their final year of study in an Australian or New Zealand tertiary course. They needed to have completed a Diploma, Associate Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Undergraduate or Honours degree in jewellery and/or metalsmithing since the last JMGA Biennial Conference in Perth in April 2010. We were pleased to receive so many applications and are proud to include the works of so many emerging jewellers and metalsmiths. It is encouraging to see the breadth and diversity of practice represented.

I congratulate the artists whose works are represented in this exhibition. I would also like to acknowledge my colleague Craig Douglas and his students for their written contributions to this catalogue. The catalogue also features a significant contribution by an emerging writer, Lisa Bryan-Brown, in the role of guest writer. I wish to thank the blind reviewers who made the difficult decisions about whose works would be included in the final exhibition, and my colleague Catherine Large for sharing the work involved in coordinating this exhibition. Last but not least, thank you to the sponsors.

Elizabeth Shaw
JMGA Conference Committee Chair