



BREATHE BROOCH,
LICHENOLOGY, KATE BAJIC

DIRECTORY MAKER OF THE WEEK: KATE BAJIC

Kate Bajic is exhibiting at Artistar Jewels 2017 in Milan until 26 February

Our Directory Maker of the Week, [Kate Bajic](#) talks to us about getting into making, what inspires her and her favourite part of the making process

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Who or what got you into making?

A natural predisposition toward drawing and photography slowly developed into a more focussed decision to develop my creative skills into a career. When studying at art foundation, I found myself more and more interested in the making process and seemed to have a natural affinity for working with metal. This led on to a silversmithing and jewellery degree followed by postgraduate study. My creative practice continues to evolve and develop.

Tell us a bit about your work. What are your inspirations?

I live in a rural location and use the countryside around me as inspiration for my designs. In particular, I am fascinated by the wide variation of colour, shape and form found in different lichen species. Photography and sample collection allows me to gain inspiration and information on the natural forms that drive my designs, I take time to observe and examine their minute complexity and translate aspects of this into my jewellery. I am not seeking to replicate, more to suggest and give a feeling of natural form, texture and movement. All the shapes I use are taken from images of lichen I have researched or photographed. Exploring composition in my work enables me to contrast materials, or to layer complex shapes to form interesting shadows and edges to catch the light.

What is your favourite part of the making process?

Working hands on with the materials. I like to allow pieces to develop and change during the making process as I find this way of working engages me and stimulates ideas. There is a certain amount of freedom for happy accidents to occur, or to discover possibilities that can be acknowledged and retained for use in the future. Pieces are made predominantly by hand, often with time-consuming surface textures and complex hand-cut shapes. The meditative, rhythmic qualities of creating give me, as a maker, a sense of calm and order which I hope imparts into my work.

What are you working on right now?

Currently I am completing a collection of jewellery which will be exhibited at LOOT at the Museum of Arts & Design in New York in April. These are all new pieces combining silver, steel and semi-precious stones. They are a further development of my lichen-themed work and are designed to be both striking and wearable.

View [Kate Bajic's Directory profile](#)

See Kate's work at [Artistar Jewels 2017, Palazzo Giureconsulti, Milan](#) until 26 February 2017 and [LOOT, Museum of Arts & Design \(MAD\), New York](#) from 3 - 8 April 2017.

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