

ALLEGHENY

'Maker & Muse,' showing art jewelry in all its splendor, to open at The Frick Pittsburgh



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COURTESY OF THE RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS MUSEUM

Josef Hoffmann and Berthold Löffler, The Wiener Werkstätte (Austrian established 1903), Hostess Pin, c. 1907. Enameled nickel silver. Collection of Richard H. Driehaus. Photograph by John Faier, © 2014 The Richard H. Driehaus Museum. The pin will be featured at the Maker & Muse: Women and Early Twentieth Century A Jewelry exhibit at the Frick Pittsburgh through May 10.

This art sparkles and shines.

"Maker & Muse: Women and Early Twentieth Century Art Jewelry" opens Saturday at the Frick Pittsburgh in Point Breeze. The exhibit runs through May 10.

Organized by the Richard H. Driehaus Museum in Chicago, "Maker & Muse" encompasses more than 200 examples of art jewelry — including necklaces, pendants, brooches, buckles, tiaras, and other items of adornment — by makers such as René Lalique, Charlotte Newman and Louis Comfort Tiffany.



The exhibition celebrates the impact of women on the innovative and imaginative jewelry of the turn of the 20th century, said Sarah Hall, chief curator and director of collections at the Frick.

"This exhibit connects with the work we have been doing the past few years with fashion and taste, and the way our style expresses our identity and reflects the times we live in," Hall said. "It looks at art jewelry from 1880-1930. Art jewelry during this time period was usually handmade and highly individualistic pieces."

Thirty percent of the work in the show was made by women, Hall said. She added that females also inspired the makers who created the baubles to celebrate femininity and beauty at a time when women's roles were rapidly changing.

Some of it is high-end and luxury jewelry, said Hall, who added that was a little bit scandalous so "women had to be brave to wear this jewelry."

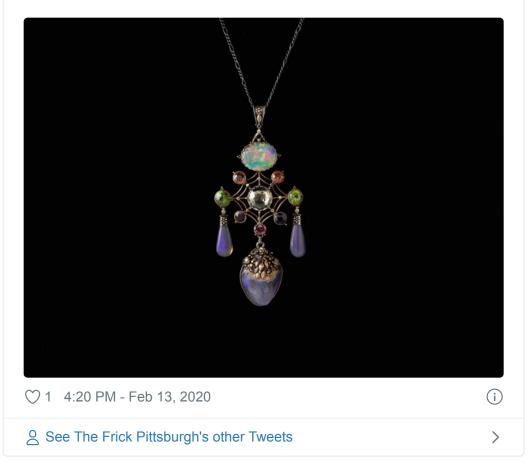


Hall invited fashion people in Pittsburgh to comment on the pieces as guest label writers. They will be part of an event: "Gallery Conversations with Guest Labelists" at 7 p.m. on Feb. 25.

Other happenings connected to the exhibit include an educator workshop on Feb. 29, a maker day on March 21, a concert on March 25, a jewelry-making workshop on April 5, a poetry event on April 7, "Musings with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre" on April 14 and a curator's lecture on April 22.



Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 25 for Gallery Conversations with Guest Labelists. Spend an evening in gallery conversations with artists, makers, writers, and others who offered their expertise for the Maker & Muse exhibition. bit.ly/2R3GDXB



The exhibition is the first show mounted after the arrival of the Frick's new executive director, Elizabeth Barker, who joined the museum in December.

"Sarah Hall is amazing," Barker said. "She found ways to make this exhibit beautiful for our visitors. The show features the work of talented female artists who had amazing vision. It's an exciting project."

Art jewelry's beginnings

It all begins late in the 1800s, as the Arts and Crafts movement expanded in England. Handcrafted objects, both decorative and functional, became sought after, and jewelry was no exception to this trend, Hall said.

The jewelry that was made of semi-precious materials, and highly individualistic in design and execution, became known as art jewelry.

The philosophy of the Arts and Crafts movement influenced all manner of production — from textiles to book binding, to furnishings, and even dress, which, for women, began to move away from restrictive, cumbersome Victorian clothing, Hall said.

Charlotte Newman was one of the pioneers, known for her fine workmanship and eclectic designs, Hall said. Her success encouraged other women to learn the trade.

Tiffany's New York jewelry studio opened in 1902, and female designers like Julia Munson and Meta Overbeck would lead his design department, though neither was publicly recognized for her work, Hall said.



COURTESY OF THE RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS MUSEUM

Louis Comfort Tiffany and Julia Munson, Necklace, c. 1910. 18K gold, pink sapphire, plique-à-jour enamel. Collection of Tiffany & Co. Archives. A2005.18 © 2014 Tiffany & Co. Archives. It will be featured in the Maker & Muse Women and Early Twentieth Century Art Jewelry exhibit at the Frick Pittsburgh through May 10.

"When we hear the word Tiffany — we are all familiar with the Tiffany stained-glass windows and the beautiful lamps which we have in the exhibit as well as a necklace — both the lamp and the necklace that demonstrates the filigree technique, the fine twisting of wire," Hall said. "I think the sexiest detail in this exhibition is the Tiffany enamel medallion necklace that has four pink sapphires on the clasp that you wear on the nape of your neck since you are wearing your hair up at this time. It is a wonderful little detail on the necklace that takes some observation to pick out."

Admission is \$15, seniors, students and military are \$13 and youth ages 6–16 are \$8; youth 5 and under are free.

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