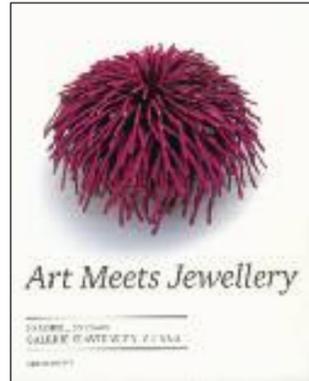


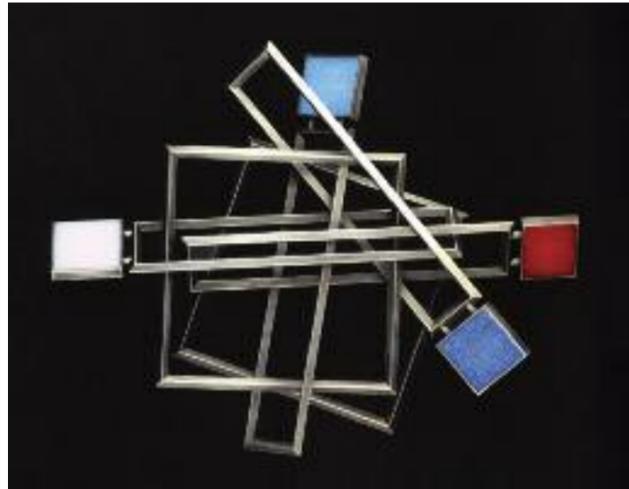
BOOKS



Art Meets Jewellery

20 Years – Galerie Slavik, Vienna. Arnoldsche Art Publishers, Stuttgart, Germany, 2010. Hardback, pp 200. ISBN 978-3-89790-332-6

THIS book is a celebratory publication charting 20 years of Galerie Slavik, the contemporary jewellery gallery in Vienna. In full colour and lavishly illustrated the book contains several essays addressing various aspects of the gallery's history and examples of the work of most of its major artists. As critic Gerhard Pucsala wrote in his tribute piece, 'It was an unusual architectonic concept that, virtually overnight, moved Galerie Slavik into the limelight 20 years ago. In the meantime, the gallery has evolved into an indispensable centre of communication between artists, col-



Helfried Kodré, Brooch 2009, silver, glass mosaic



Mirjam Hiller and gallery director Renate Slavik, Vienna, 2009



Joaquim Capdevila, Brooch, 2000, silver, stone and lacquer

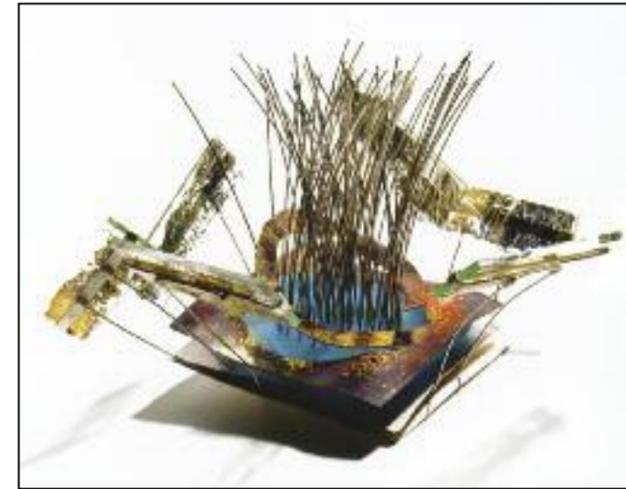
lectors, jewellery lovers and buyers; a forum of interaction of people with a penchant for contemporary jewellery art.' Soon after its opening in 1990 it was listed as one of the architectural jewels of Vienna and, given that it is a small space in a narrow winding street in the historic central district of this beautiful city, that was some achievement. The hanging glass showcases, that can be moved to obtain varying layouts, and the revolving gold disc balanced on a steel beam piercing the wall out into the street, are the most unusual features. However, the gallery has evolved to be much more than a beautiful architectural jewel and this publication is a clear acknowledgement of that fact.

Galerie Slavik has become a major international gallery, a worthy suc-



Bernhard Fröh, 'Cora's Dream', 2007, brooch, gold, coral, blue colour

cessor to the legendary Galerie am Graben run by Inge Asenbaum in earlier decades. The major names in European art jewellery, especially Austrians, Italians, Germans, Dutch and Spanish are represented in the book though there is a wider spread of people who have exhibited there. Those of Australian interest include David Walker, Dorothy Erickson, Marian Hosking, Macha Moje and the late Mari Funaki, though none of these are featured in the book.



Maria Rosa Franzin, 'Padus Vanitas', 2008, brooch, gold, silver, steel, plastic

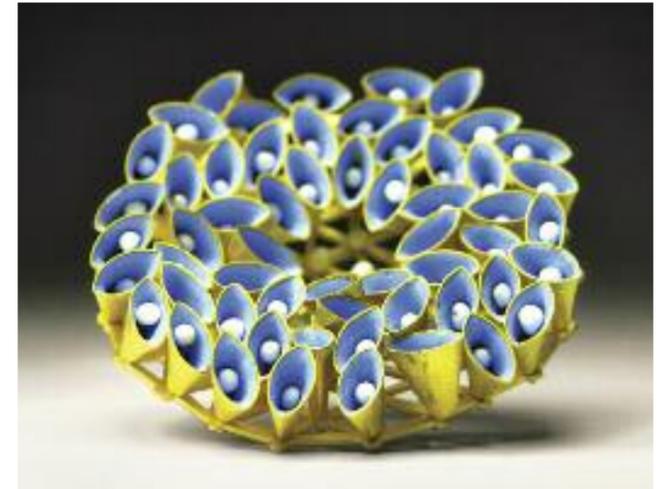
The essays are like the curate's egg, with concise heartfelt words from Tomas and Edmund Hoke, designers of the striking fit-out (in which Tomas, a jeweller at the time, was the first exhibitor), through notes on the 20 years of activity, to a formal philosophical essay titled "The Arduous Fortune of Perfection" by collector Karl Bollman. There is an interesting survey of contemporary jewellery in the past 20 years, which to some readers has a particularly Euro centric context that privileges the continental artists. The author of this piece, an art historian, seems unaware of the strong representation there used to be of Australian work in Europe in the 1980s and '90s, though she does have some knowledge of a few Japanese. The British get hardly a mention and the Americans none. The essays are somewhat disconcertingly located throughout a catalogue of beautiful images of the works of the artists

Gisela Seibert-Philippin, 'Heart in One's Boots', 2008, brooch and pendant, gold and silver



Herman Jünger, Brooch, 1996, gold 850, enamel

represented in the gallery stable and there are also occasional problems with the translation, for this book is in both German and English. In one important miss-translation that gives quite the wrong impression, the gallery is described as being in a basement rather than the ground floor where it is actually situated. Generally there is a strong design



Jacqueline Ryan, Brooch, 2009, 18 ct gold, enamel, diam. 5 cm



Salima Thakker, Bracelet, 2009, oxidised silver, gold

layout "book-ended" with a series of gallery snaps and 25 portraits of people labelled "attendants" that presumably are or have been staff at the front, balanced by brief profiles of authors and artists, tributes and lists of solo exhibitions at the back. 'If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing with love', gallery owner Renate Slavik has written

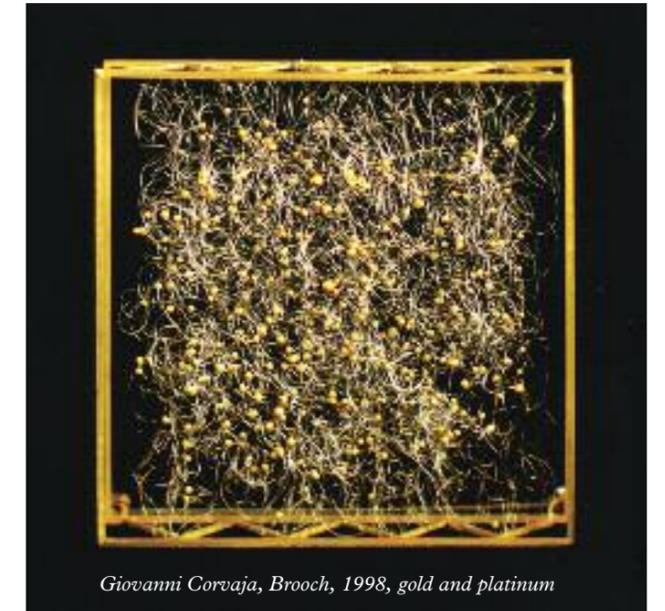
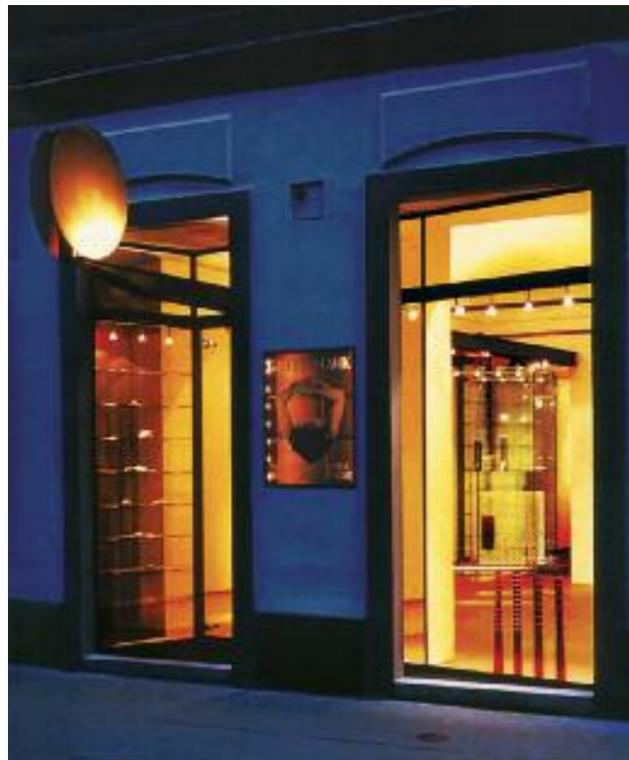
and despite the minor quibbles this elegant book is a worthy record of her 20 years of devoted service to contemporary art jewellery.

Dorothy Erickson

Dorothy Erickson is an art historian and author as well as an internationally exhibiting artist jeweller. Her most recent book is titled Gold and Silversmithing in Western Australia: A History, 2010.



Daniel Kruger, Necklace, 2010, stg silver, copper and enamel
Street front of Galerie Slavik, Vienna



Giovanni Corvaja, Brooch, 1998, gold and platinum