

Ornamentum  
506 Warren St.  
Hudson, NY 12534  
[www.ornamentumgallery.com](http://www.ornamentumgallery.com)

Press Contact:  
Stefan Friedemann  
518.671.6770 gallery  
518.821.3310 mobile  
[info@ornamentumgallery.com](mailto:info@ornamentumgallery.com)

***For Immediate Release***

**Miami Beach - Ornamentum Gallery-** Design Miami's contemporary jewelry gallery is back-exhibiting the world's most provocative contemporary jewelry and for the first time in Miami, with a special focus on silver hollowware in particular, **November 30 – December 4, 2011**

Ornamentum Gallery will feature 10 of the most important names in international contemporary jewelry and silversmithing at Design Miami / Basel 2011:

Throughout history, the work of the silversmith has been an area of great importance in the world of precious metals... the fields of jewelry and silversmithing often overlap, with many artist / designers creating excellent examples in both mediums. In 2011, Ornamentum gallery will pay special attention to the objects which bejewel the table in addition to a stellar collection of contemporary jewelry.

Original takes on this historical medium will be displayed from artist / designers such as Luzia Vogt (Switzerland), Gerd Rothmann (Germany), Karl Fritsch (Germany), and introducing for the first time in Miami- David Clarke- "often cited as one of Britain's most highly innovative silversmiths." More info on these artist / designers follows.

**David Bieland**

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Switzerland

Meticulously thought-out works with humorous themes are made in small, limited editions.

Bielander's newest work, a necklace titled "Blue Python 1/12" will debut at Design Miami. Made of titanium, a strong yet almost weightless metal, the necklace is flexible enough to wrap twice around the neck and clasp together in the front.





"Black Forest" Necklace (artist prototype), 2011  
Titanium, silver chain.

## David Clarke

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UK

Shaking the foundations of the traditional and Victorian-based British silversmithing world, David Clarke's work has been barred from exhibitions and he has been taken aside in public by the old masters and implored to cease working in the manners he employs.

Clarke searches for anique silver works, works that are close to being discarded and "bastardizes" them with lower- class metals such as lead or pewter (allowing the objects to be food-safe). The ornate forms are dissected and reconstructed in odd and surprising manners which play on the perspective and function of the original forms. Spoons are converted to larger vessels, an ornate teapot is cut and "cosmetically altered" to become even more voluptuous ("Ooh La La")- and vessels are not-so-glamorously humanized in "Ever So Slightly Slashed" for example. A strong presentation of Clarke's major works will be featured at the 2011 Design Miami fair.



"Ooh La La"



"Ever So Slightly Sloshed"



"Spoonies"



"Jugzilla"

## **Karl Fritsch**

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Germany

No other jeweler approaches making jewelry (in particular rings) in the same manner as German Karl Fritsch. Working with a childlike playfulness and a love for the self-referential theme of jewelry while simultaneously disregarding all of the accepted notions of what is important in the creation of jewelry, Fritsch boldly pushes the boundaries so far past the point of ridiculousness that they reach the point of profundity.



A bold selection of Fritsch's rings will be with Ornamantum at Design Miami, as well as his irreverent approach to the theme of the vessel:



Employing the same humor as in his rings, Fritsch takes a silver-plated vessel found at a flea market, adds two bold hunks of bronze and the piece is now a Fritsch original.

### **Iris Eichenberg**

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NL/ USA

Holding the position as Artist in Residence / Head of the Jewelry Dept. at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan, Iris Eichenberg creates highly unconventional wearable works based on themes of intensely personal nature. Eichenberg's oeuvre touches on sentimentality, place and state of being, transience and relationships both personal and familial, using materials such as

rubber, leather, fabric and wood more frequently than metals.

In addition to jewelry, Ornamantum will feature several "Tables with Sweaters" by Iris Eichenberg. Simple wooden tables with knitted wool coverings, Eichenberg addresses the space between the two people seated.



## **Jantje Fleischhut**

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Netherlands

"Precious Plastic" Bold and colorful necklaces, a combination of unique pieces and editioned works by Jantje Fleischhut will be exhibited with Ornamentum in Miami.

Intriguing color and shape collages in plastic and rubber, sometimes combined with silver and their unlimited edition (but no less stunning) counterparts will no doubt attract tremendous attention.



## John Iversen

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USA

Trained in Germany, living and working in New York, the work of John Iversen is highly sought after and found in many important private and public collections. Iversen's latest works – bracelets and brooches of hundreds of "cracked" segments move on the body like a second skin of red, green yellow and white gold – they sensuously ask to be worn, touched... even caressed like a fine fabric on the body.



"Mixed Up" Bracelet by John Iversen

## Dan Jocz

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USA

Imaginative and humorous, the jewelry of Dan Jocz can be large- scale, loud and colorful, and often... fuzzy. Synthetic fiber flocking covers the silver surface of a bracelet or necklace... enameled cigarettes with lipstick adorn a series of necklaces in tribute to Marlene Dietrich.



## **Ted Noten**

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Netherlands

### **Just released- Dutch Artist of the Year 2012!**

One of the most awe-inspiring designers at our last three presentations in Miami has been Ted Noten. No one in the field of contemporary jewelry has pushed the medium so far past its' definition into the realms of the fine arts and the contemporary design object as has Noten.

The iconic handbag / suitcase form synonymous with the Atelier Noten name comes alive again in an untitled work made of a 5 Kg bar of silver with a handle and shoulder strap mounted upon it.



A stunning new handbag "Voorheen Q.E." with 18K gold sewing implements and an antique ivory

clutch purse (originally sold to the artist as having been owned by Dutch Queen Emma (1858-1934)- which later was proven false).



"Hanzi" bracelet in Alumide 3D print/18kt gold coke spoon in container  
L19x8.5x1.5cm

## **Gerd Rothmann**

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Germany

Since the 1960's, Gerd Rothmann has been one of the seminal figures in contemporary jewelry.

Known for his work with the fingerprint and imprints of the skin, the jewelry of Rothmann achieves an almost iconic personal connection with the wearer. The wearer has a piece with much more than the designer's signature, they almost have a piece of him on their jewelry, or a piece from a loved- one if the works are commissioned with personalized imprints.

Although a renowned jewelry maker, Rothmann is also an accomplished silversmith, hammering out large vessels in silver and adding his signature- in the case of the vessel pictured below- the imprint of his fingertips to the piece.



Also to be exhibited are, among other works, a necklace of major significance to this Artist / Designer. Made of Gold in 1988, the necklace "Modelled in Wax with the Fingertips" is unique in its departure from the straightforward fingerprint motif.



## **Luzia Vogt**

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Switzerland

Basel, Switzerland based Luzia Vogt creates breathtakingly intimate vessels, delicately hammered by hand from silver and gold coins to a size that fits easily in the hand. Details such as an ear with earring, hands holding or various texts and the ridged edge of the coin are spared the hammer's blows and leave evidence of the original starting form for the object.



**Gallery Statement:**

Founded in 2002, Ornamantum Gallery exhibits a dynamic collection of contemporary jewelry as well as related objects and artworks. Ornamantum hosts numerous exhibitions yearly in their recently expanded Hudson, NY exhibition space – one of the world’s largest gallery spaces dedicated specifically to contemporary jewelry – where featured designers display their work in conceptual installations.

Ornamantum is well established as a major force for introducing this exciting medium to new international audiences, working to help build many of the world’s most significant public and private collections of contemporary jewelry and playing a pivotal role in numerous acquisitions of important works by key museums.

Whether based in material experimentation, conceptual content or a combination of both, the work exhibited by Ornamantum must challenge conventions and be absolutely individual in content and form.