



World
Crafts Council
Europe

ABHUSHAN – WCC Jewellery Exhibition/Delhi / 2011 European Participation / Curator's Note

Europe is a place of a long tradition in jewellery in general – and especially in modern artistic jewellery since more than 50 years.

The selection was done by a team consisting of Anne Leclercq (Belgium), Nina Linde (Denmark) and Martina Dempf (Germany).

The curators wanted to show the great diversity of modern jewellery and artistic concepts in Europe. The team did not intend to set up definitions, but leave space to pose questions of what jewellery is at the beginning of the 21st century.

In accordance to the concept of ABHUSHAN, we focused our selection on artists which work with material that has no economic value in the first place.

As a challenge to traditional notions of preciousness these art pieces gain their value through artistic imagination and skilled transformation of economically non-precious material into jewellery.

This includes the question of the borderline between jewellery as an applied art and fine art, which is discussed widely in art forums in the Western World. A clear definition of what is jewellery is difficult to make, and has to be decided individually for each piece by understanding its context and the maker's intention. This also includes the different approaches and attitudes towards jewellery as well as diverging aspects when wearing jewellery or looking at jewellery worn by other people.

After having shortlisted thirty artists, we selected twelve artists from eight European countries. Our main focus was their capability of contemporary artistic expression in jewellery and their skills and culture of making the piece. These main criteria do include a significant and visible quality of transforming material through artistic imagination and concepts into a piece of jewellery.

January 2011 (Text: Martina Dempf)