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Jeweller April Stock launches a collection of new work at New Designers 2004 this week: her first major show since graduating last year. April's work, mainly in silver, explores the concept of containment and is based around the two metaphors of house and vessel. She is one of 60 exhibiting in the One Year On section, a showcase for designers who are one year on from graduation or have recently started out in business.

April is currently sharing a workshop with Jane Moore, the enameller, at Jane Moore Contemporary Jewellery in Leamington Spa. She is there as part of a scheme that Jane runs to help new graduates find their feet, an opportunity that many feel is all too rare. Apart from space and access to equipment, there is expert advice always on hand, and the chance to pick up vital business experience serving customers in the gallery and dealing with other makers.

The learning curve designing and making jewellery in the real world is steep over the first year, however good your technical skills learnt at university. April says that setting up has been hard work, but she feels lucky to be part of Jane's scheme. 'Developing my collection here surrounded by others' work is so much more inspiring than being tucked away in a basement workshop at home. On top of which, I have had Jane's invaluable support and advice, and encouragement when the going has been tough.'

Following New Designers, April will be busy developing her collection further in time for Chelsea Crafts Fair, where she is exhibiting in the autumn – a daunting but exciting prospect for so young a designer. Later in the year, she has been offered an exhibition of her houses range at the Architecture Centre in Bristol. Beyond that, well, who knows? Good luck to her and to all the other new designers and craftspeople starting out this year.

Leamington Spa, 29 June 2004

April Stock will be on stand 70 at Chelsea Crafts Fair, Chelsea Old Town Hall, London during week 2, 19 to 24 October 2004. See www.craftscouncil.org.uk/chelsea2004 for more information.



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About my work

Working mainly in silver, I create jewellery using the two visual metaphors of house and vessel. Both are types of enclosed space, but they are used to contain different things. I explore containment in wearable forms.

I am intrigued by archaeological finds, especially ancient vessels and items of personal adornment. I am also fascinated by architecture, and dolls houses. Recent work has been inspired by the Regency architecture of my current surroundings in Royal Leamington Spa.

My work is often a response to something highly decorative or complicated, but final pieces become stronger the more I simplify them. I am concerned with the finding the kernel of a design idea.

For further background and a full catalogue of my current work, see www.AprilStock.com

About me

1981 > Born in Dorset, UK

2003 > BA (hons) Jewellery Design, Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College

October 2003 > Moved to shared workshop at Jane Moore Contemporary Jewellery, Leamington Spa

Recent exhibitions

June 2003 > Ignition, BCUC, High Wycombe

July 2003 > New Designers, Islington, London

February 2004 > Spotlight exhibition at Jane Moore Contemporary Jewellery, Leamington Spa

July 2004 > One Year On at New Designers, Islington, London

Forthcoming exhibitions

October 2004 > Chelsea Crafts Fair, Chelsea, London

November 2004 > The Architecture Centre, Bristol

Electronic version

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