

Pieces of Eight Gallery presents an exhibition by Nina Ellis,

'Welcome to Gemrock'

September 28 – October 21 2006

Greetings and 'Welcome to Gemrock'! After a year of experimentation, gold and silversmith Nina Ellis has produced a highly innovative collection of new work for her first solo exhibition. The work has sprung from the fruitful relationship with her mentor, ceramic artist Titania Henderson. They were joined together when Ellis become the recipient of the *2005 Emerging Artist Initiative* through Craft Victoria.

Ellis sources gems which are tolerant of the intense heat of the kiln, and then sets them into fine porcelain which she has stained to create different colours. Entirely non-traditional in her approach, this is almost an anti-jewellery method as instead of setting the stones to maximize their sparkling quality; she embeds them into the porcelain. Fascinated with the geological formation of gemstones, in *'Welcome to Gemrock,'* Ellis returns these minerals to an earthly home.

The forms of the jewellery hint to the title *Gemrock*. Ellis' brooches are like clustered little craters and rocks, studded with the occasional precious stone or metal. Some of her neckpieces are made of round faceted 'beads' of porcelain that are reminiscent of the simplified jewellery worn by cartoon characters from her childhood like Wilma Flintstone and Marge Simpson.

As a recipient of several awards and having exhibited both in Australia and internationally since graduating from RMIT Gold and Silversmithing in 2003, Nina Ellis is a leading emerging artist and this new body of work is an exciting development in her oeuvre.

Pieces of Eight is Melbourne's newest contemporary jewellery and object gallery, currently showcasing the work of local emerging artists. The diverse collection comprises of original and limited edition works which range from the exquisite to the unexpected. Through our onsite workshop, we can also take on commissions, and work with our clients to custom-make an original design.

Nina Ellis is one of six artists based at the Pieces of Eight onsite workshop and this is her first solo exhibition.

**For more information contact Melanie Katsalidis on
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