

BROKEN MEMORIES PRECARIOUS LINKS --- **TOTA RECICLADOS** ---

21.09.2014 t/m 11.01.2015



CODA MUSEUM

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Broken Memories, Precarious Links: assembled jewellery by Tota Reciclados

Fragments of old jewellery and everyday objects, bits of fabric, photos, illustrations and other memorabilia; they lie around unused and rarely looked at in kitchen drawers, nightstands or boxes in the attic. But they are not thrown away. After all, they tell personal stories or represent precious memories. During their stay in Amsterdam, Tota Reciclados – formed by Argentinian designers Valeria Hasse and Marcela Muñiz – invited neighbours, artists and students to donate these kinds of objects and materials and to share the stories attached to them. They used the materials they were given in jewels that together make up a collection. In return each participant will get back a specifically designed piece of the final collection, including part or all the material they left behind, mixed with other material.

As a conclusion to this project, the collection will be exhibited in CODA Museum under the title *Broken Memories, Precarious Links* from 21 September 2014 to 11 January 2015 inclusive.

Tota Reciclados started designing and producing jewellery made from discarded materials and objects they found in 2002, at the time of the deep economic crisis in Argentina, as a critique of the economic situation and the way we use everyday objects. However, in the past few years the Argentinian duo has mainly been working with materials given to them because they often tell a unique story.

“A lot of people are bad at throwing things away. Something can be broken but the story or the memory makes the object precious and it ends up in a drawer or a box. We are curious to hear the stories, collect these objects and materials and turn them into new jewellery objects. This way, we do not only make jewels that tell a unique and personal story but we also connect the precarious and fragile with the precious and valuable.”

Instead of the traditional techniques employed by goldsmiths, Hasse and Muñiz used metal wire and string to convert the various materials into new jewels. “We do not want to fix the materials the jewel is made of in one place forever. There should be air and movement in the objects so they can easily be taken apart again. Moreover,

we like to show exactly what the jewels are made of. After all, the point is to reuse and combine materials and so create new objects. We do not make things appear better than they are. It should be clear that we do not strive for perfection.”

The jewellery collection *Broken Memories, Precarious Links* came into being during the Artists in Residence project of the Françoise van den Bosch Foundation, which Tota Reciclados gave shape to while staying at Studio Rian de Jong in Amsterdam.

During their two-month stay, they did not only collect the objects and materials from neighbours, artists and students, they also provided room for the personal stories attached to the materials and objects they were given.

“We organised several meetings with the donors and asked them about the stories behind the materials or objects they had given us. These conversations were all recorded and photographed so that the stories would be captured and preserved too.” Some of these photos were turned into a presentation that was exhibited in gallery *Achter de ramen* in Amsterdam in June 2013.



Tota Recicladados

The Argentinian duo Tota Recicladados consists of designers Valeria Hasse (1963) and Marcela Muñiz (1959). Valeria Hasse was trained as a graphic designer at the University of Buenos Aires. After that, she followed a postgraduate course at the Jan van Eyck Academy in Maastricht (2000). Marcela Muñiz is an architect who also studied at the University of Buenos Aires. She was Artist in Residence at the Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart, Germany in 2005. Hasse and Muñiz are based in Buenos Aires but travel all over the world with their projects and workshops. Their work is part of several private collections and the collection of the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Oslo, Norway. Tota Recicladados were selected as Artists in Residence by the Françoise van den Bosch Foundation in 2013. During their stay in Studio Rian de Jong in Amsterdam they developed *Broken Memories*, *Precarious Links*, creating a new jewellery collection with its own story, made up of old materials and existing stories and memories.

**24 people
participated of the
project “Broken
memories,
precarious links”**

**24 jewelry pieces were
made and after being
exhibited will be given to
the participants**

**One video piece
consisting of a general
one and 24 individual
pieces is part of the
project**

<http://vimeo.com/estudiovis/broken>

RIAN DE JONG

“It would be nice if you did something with it. It’s time to do something different”

Rian de Jong lives and works in Amsterdam, the Netherlands but can often be found on a boat. She is a jeweller and a sailor. We spent two months at her old studio and she was the first person we interviewed for our project. She brought her husband, Herman, along to the interview. Rian and Herman were also our neighbours and they became dear friends.

When Rian was two years old she became very ill and went to live with her aunt Rie, who took good care of her. She brought two objects related to aunt Rie: an old moth-eaten portrait and a white brooch that her aunt wore often. Rian also brought a cameo, a family heirloom that had been lying around in her bathroom for a long time, and some natural materials she collected while travelling around the world. Her only condition was that the cameo should not be in a vertical position in the new piece.







LIESBETH DEN BESTEN

“I can’t throw it away because it’s jewellery!”

Liesbeth den Besten lives in Amstelveen, the Netherlands and writes and gives lectures about jewellery.

She was intrigued when she heard we wanted people to bring us things they cannot throw out. Because of her interest in jewellery, many friends and acquaintances bring back jewels for her from their travels. These are usually pieces that are not to her taste or that she would not wear, but she cannot throw them away.

She brought a lot of this jewellery to the interview and also pieces of embroidery she had found at her mother’s house or that she had bought while travelling and could throw out because “someone made them by hand”. Liesbeth even gave us some jewels she bought herself only to discover later that they were “little mistakes”.

There was so much material that we decided to use the two things she did like: two tops that did not fit her anymore but that she used to wear a lot and still liked because of the pattern of the fabric.







MIECKE OOSTERMAN

“Why do I buy things like that? I don’t know!”

Miecke lives in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She is a jewellery collector and likes reading, playing golf, taking photos, cycling, and visiting museums. Miecke wears jewellery every day. She keeps her collection all around the house.

We interviewed Miecke in our studio. She brought a lot of jewels that didn’t fit in her collection anymore and suggested we use them as material for a necklace, without specifying any requirements the jewel would have to meet (“just not too short”). She also brought some pieces she had acquired and regretted buying later. Miecke told us sometimes buys pieces of jewellery just because the designer is a nice person or to be friendly.

She bought the cicadas in France with the intention of doing something creative with them but she never did in the end.







GIEDRE LISAUSKAITE

“I think these objects used to belong to someone important”

Giedre Lisauskaite is from Vilnius, Lithuania. She is a graphic designer and attends the Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, specialising in jewellery. She spent her internship working with us at Studio de Jong, recording the interviews and documenting the materials we received.

Giedre was intrigued by the way we integrate many different objects in our work and by how we connect them. She likes to work on a big scale herself.

Giedre gave us a collection of mysterious objects that a friend who had left Holland had bought at a flea market. She suspected that all these objects had once belonged to the same person. Giedre did not dare touch them until she had photographed them for our project. After she had done this, we discovered many layers, hidden texts and materials in these objects, raising all sorts of new questions.







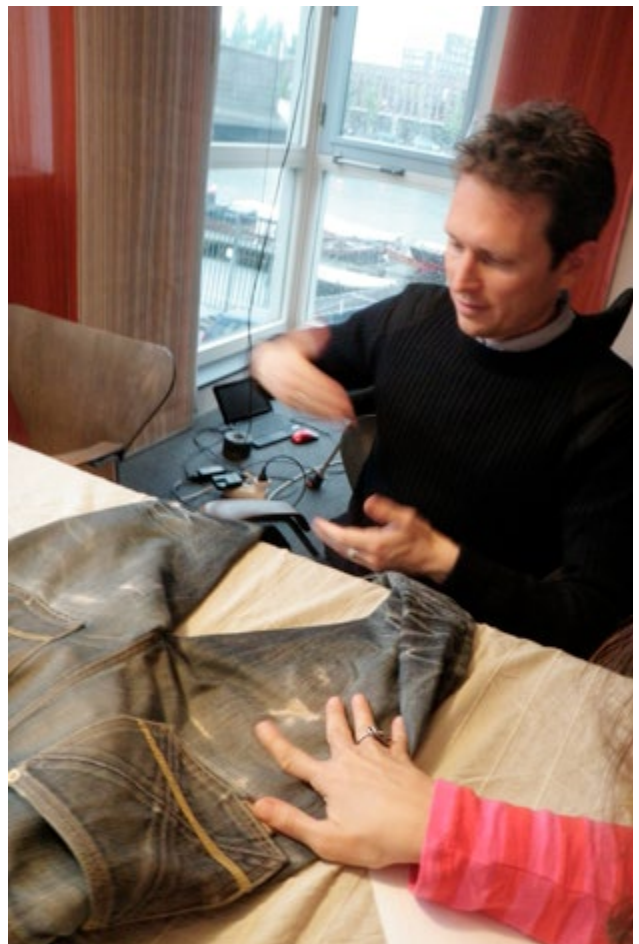
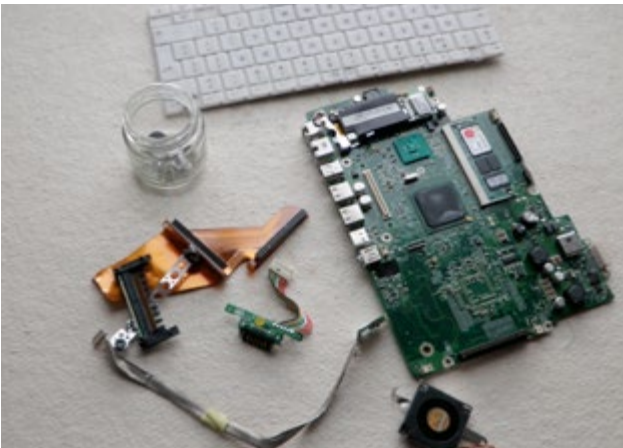
JOOST VAN DE LOO

“There are no connections between the two objects. You will have to find them”

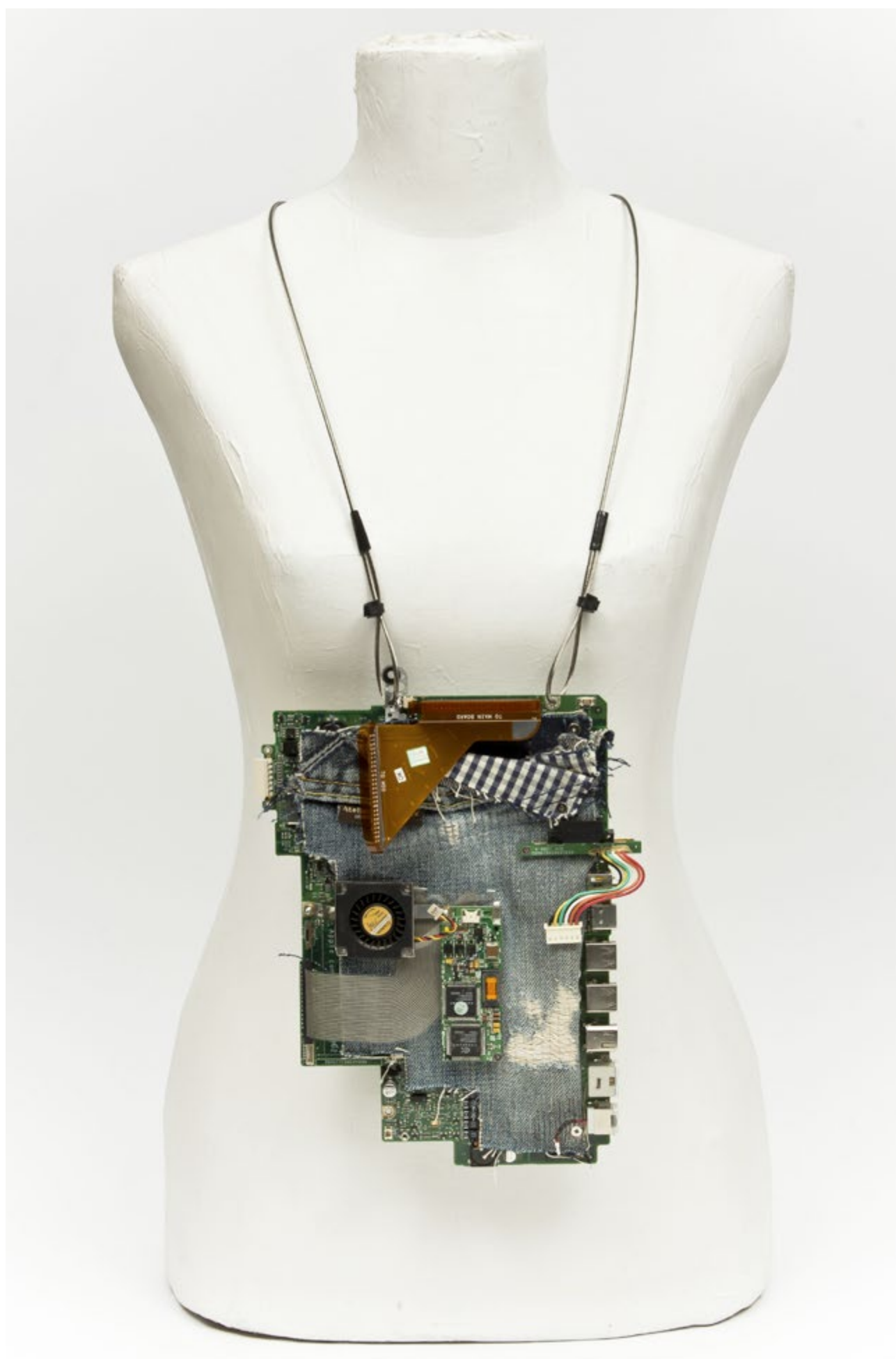
Joost van de Loo lives in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He is a publicist and a strategic planner. He likes playing tennis, travelling and learning new things. Joost is married to Maureen, who is a theatrical producer. He always wears rings.

We interviewed Joost in our studio. He brought only two things: a pair of jeans he had bought in 2008 and his first Mac from 2001. He could not throw them out because he liked the design of both.

Joost had taken the jeans back to the shop where he had bought them several times to be mended, which they did very well and without charge. He did not want us to cut the jeans up. The computer did not work anymore but Joost did ask us to return the hard disk to him. It was very difficult to open the Mac and take the disk out; we had to find the proper tool and followed instructions we found on Internet.







REZI VAN LANKVELD

“I don’t see how you can do anything with this”

Rezi van Lankveld lives in Amsterdam and describes herself as a painter. She brought her youngest son along to the interview in our studio as well as a box that contained her little treasures; a selection of small personal objects. She told us that she could not throw these objects out because they meant too much to her. She also brought a lot of family photos but decided to only give us a photo of her and her sister Marika in the end.

The box was an old Spanish bonbonnière she had bought at a flea market. The eyes of the face on the box resemble her own big blue eyes and those of her son. It is a mysterious image because it is difficult to tell if the face belongs to a man or a woman. She also gave us pieces of a wall tapestry that had belonged to her mother.





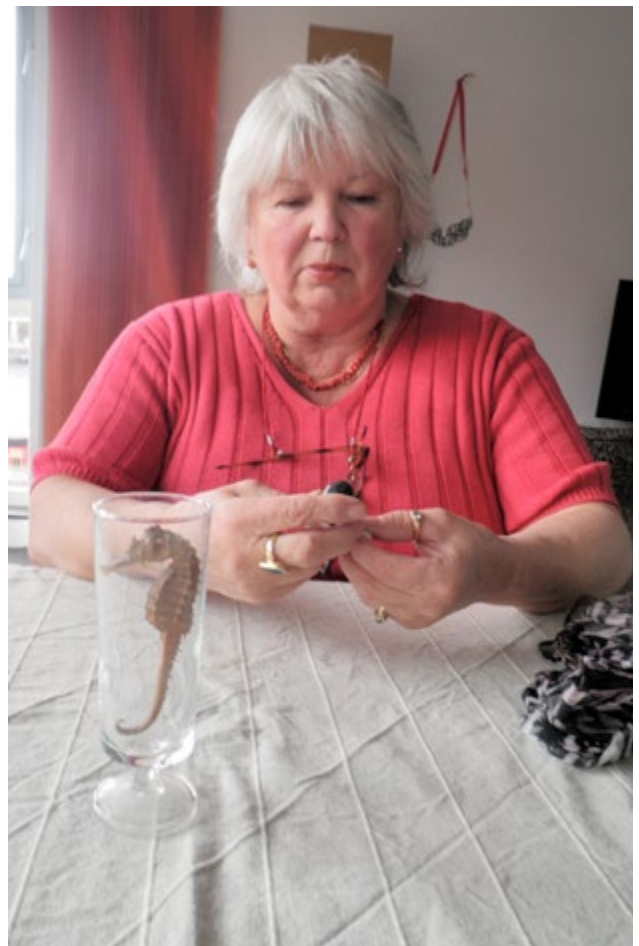


MIRA KUSTOVIC

“I think you can bring them back to life. A part of my life is in them”

Mira Kustovic has been living in Amsterdam, the Netherlands since 1970 and is originally from Croatia. She wears jewellery but chooses one thing and wears it for a whole year.

She was invited to our studio by Rian de Jong, who met her at a swimming pool. Mira came by spontaneously because she doesn't like to make appointments. She decided to participate in the project and chose three fragile objects. One of those was a sea horse she found in Turkey while travelling with her husband. Mira brought the sea horse to us in the goblet she had always stored it in to protect it. She also gave us a broken porcelain head with the face of a lady from the 1920s. It was part of a bonbonnière that belonged to her mother-in-law.







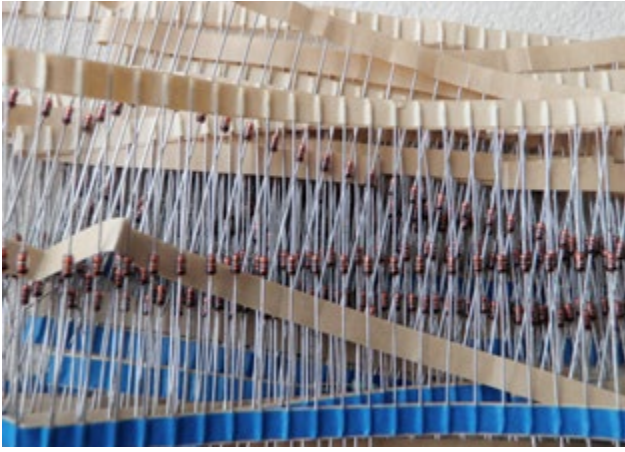
MARIAN BIJLENGA

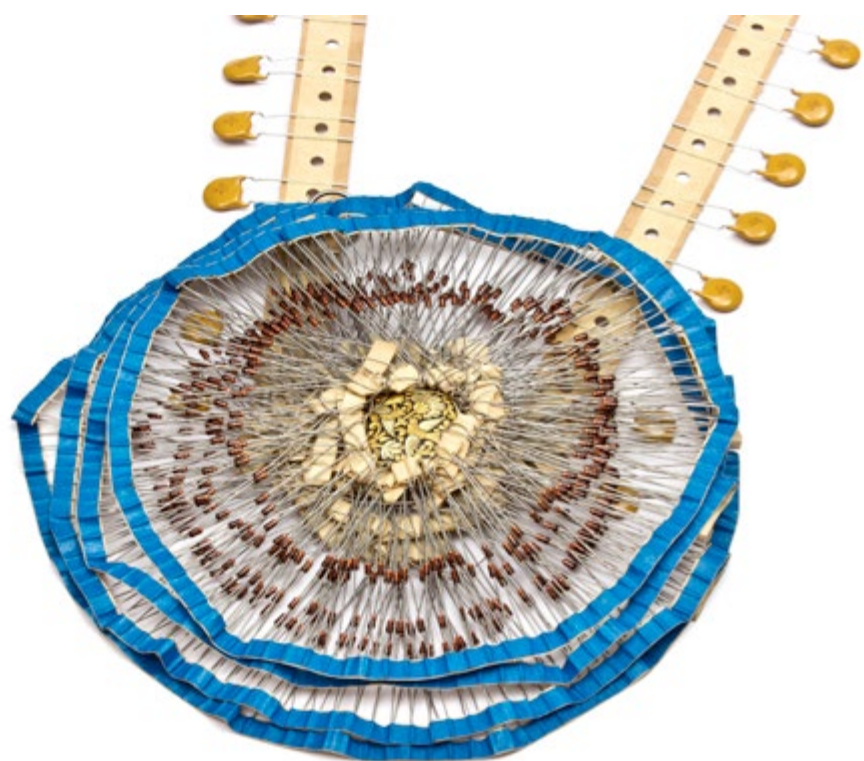
“This would be very nice to use in jewellery!”

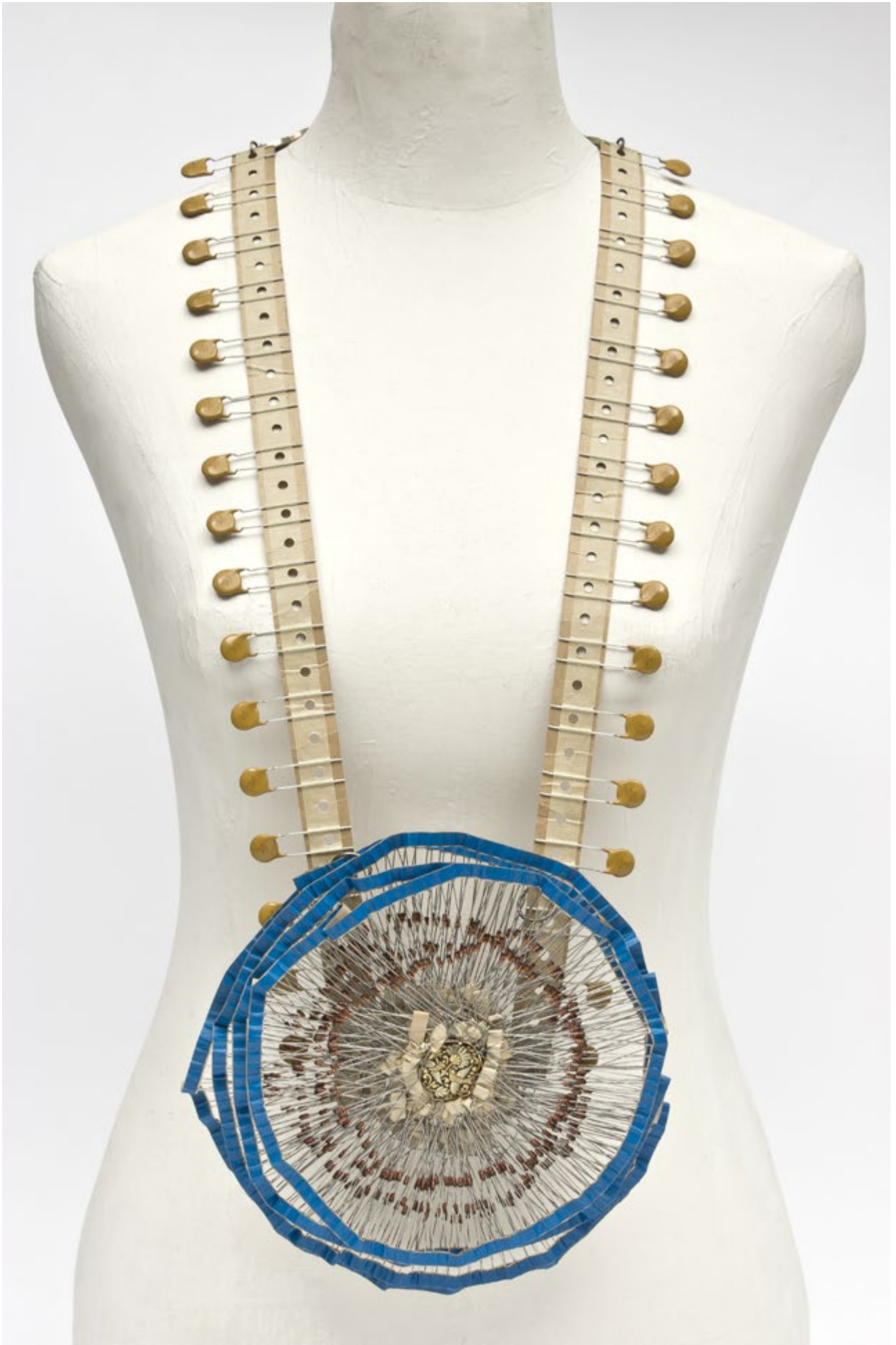
Marian Bijlenga was born on a farm but now has a studio in the centre of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She is a visual artist who works with textile and flexible materials. Marian likes encouraging children to be creative by giving them materials to build small objects with. She also enjoys knitting, cooking and gardening.

We interviewed her in our studio. She did not bring jewels but discarded and left-over materials. Some of those had been lying around in her studio for more than twenty years (“I can’t imagine what you can do with it.”).

From these materials we chose some old pieces of electronics that came from a factory in Finland.







ANS VAN BERKUM

**“I feel completely
unprepared!”**

Ans van Berkum is an art historian who lives in Almere (near Amsterdam), the Netherlands. She wears jewellery every day; large jewels because she likes getting reactions. It is a way of approaching other people.

Ans didn't know much about us and our work when she came to our studio. Before we interviewed her she had a look at our work and took many photos. She then told us that the things she had brought did not match our work, so she took a lot of the objects back with her, leaving us only a few.

A few days later she sent us a letter and a new selection of materials. In this letter, she also asked us to send back the objects she had given us earlier (“I really feel I brought the wrong things”) but told us to keep the reliquary. We did not know how to honour this request, because the objects Ans had brought to the interview were already gone. We then decided to combine the reliquary with a brooch we made a long time ago and so transform it into a pendant.







CHEQUITA NAHAR

“We always use something red for good luck”

As head of the jewellery department of the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Maastricht, the Netherlands, Chequita Nahar invited us to give a presentation about our work.

The day after the presentation she gave us a lot of small objects and told us the story of each object. They were mainly natural materials like seeds, pieces of carved wood, rope and shells. She told us that many of these objects were linked to her Surinamese roots. Some of the objects were her own creations, especially the handmade beads. Chequita loves beads because they are exchangeable items.

The funniest object was a brand new Swiss watch in its original packaging, decorated with Swiss flags and edelweiss. Chequita was given it by her grandmother Johanna, who won it at bingo. Chequita likes to wear big necklaces. She also enjoys dancing, cooking, travelling and fashion.







JULIA FISCHER

**“I absolutely love turquoise
but I can’t explain why”**

Julia Fischer is from Stuttgart, Germany and is training as a jeweller at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Maastricht, the Netherlands where we interviewed her.

She brought her box of treasures, which contained many objects from all over the world, collected by her and her friend. They were mainly natural materials she found on the beach. Julia told us she prefers objects that show wear: “I like things that are old and look used”.

She also brought a number of jewels in which she had used some of the objects she found, even though she was not satisfied with the result.







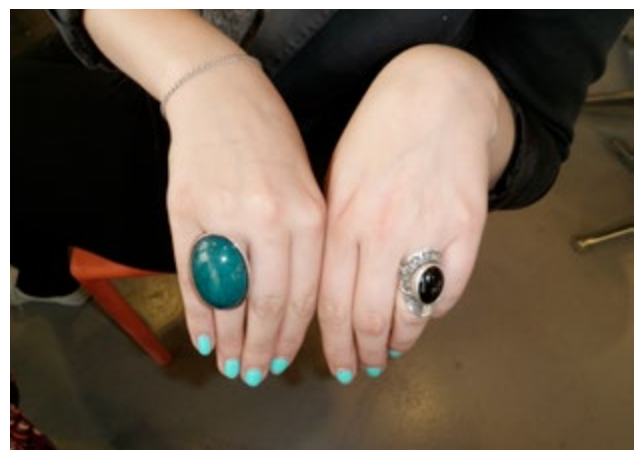
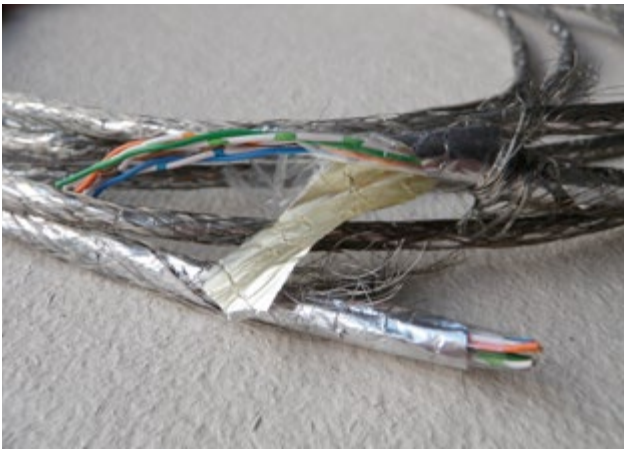
**GROUP OF STUDENTS
OF THE ACADEMY OF
FINE ARTS AND DESIGN
MAASTRICHT**

JESSIE BEURSKENS, ROWAN
FALCHI, FRANÇOISE OOSTWEGEL,
MONIQUE SCHRAVEN AND ANNE
DEVRIES

**“Chequita Nahar said:
bring something!”**

They were a group of five students, Jessie Beurskens, Rowan Falchi, Françoise Oostwegel, Monique Schraven and Anne de Vries, who attended the art academy in Maastricht. After our presentation there, they were encouraged by their teacher Chequita Nahar to participate in the project, so they collected some material and brought it to the interview.

They did not feel very comfortable and did not say much. We tried to push them a bit but that did not help. Unfortunately, we were not able to get to know them better, so we took a nice old tin they gave us and made only one piece that does not relate to a particular member of the group.





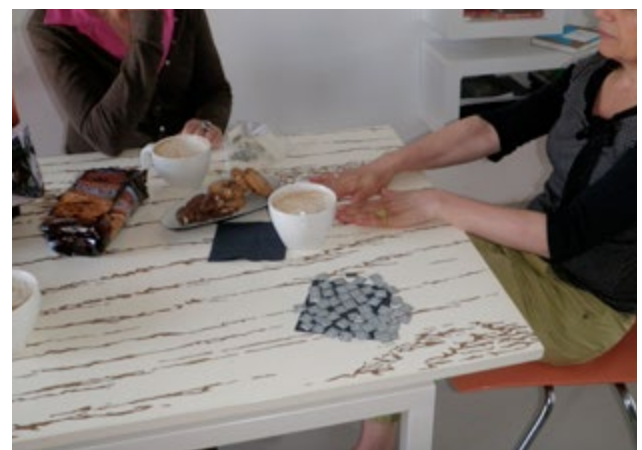


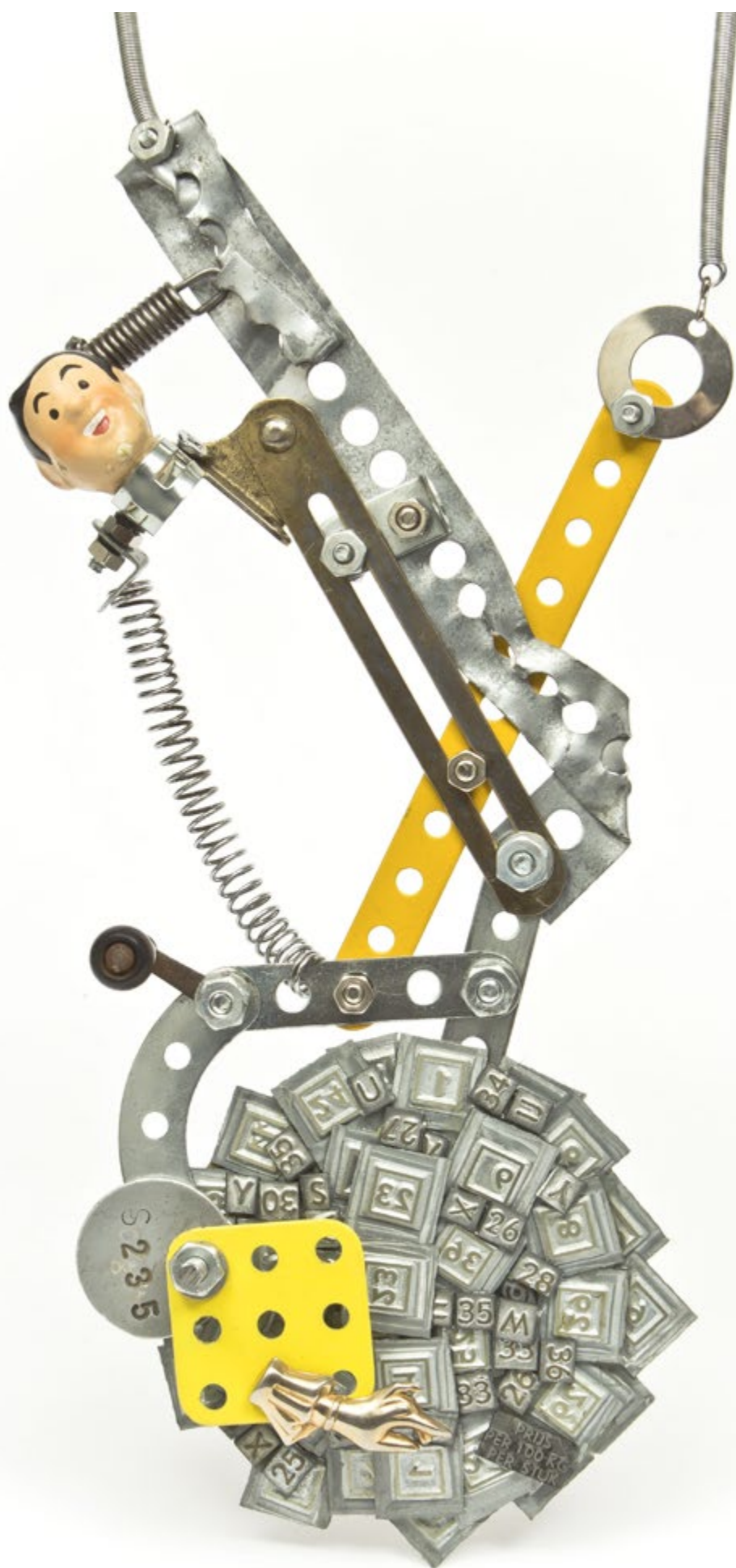
ANDREA WAGNER

“I have always wanted to use them but I never have”

Andrea Wagner is a jeweller. She was born in Germany, spent many years in Canada and now lives in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

We met her at the opening of an exhibition at Gallery Ra in Amsterdam and we had a very nice conversation. Later she invited us to her home and studio. Visiting Andrea's house told us more about her personality than a long interview would have done. She is an eclectic collector who has a clear idea of what she wants in life. We didn't have a formal interview but a relaxed chat (and two amazing cappuccinos). She gave us a plastic box with metal plates on this occasion. After we had met her several times and had gotten to know each other better she added some other materials, like the plastic head (which fell down and broke when we were back in Buenos Aires) and a round metal tag with a number punched in it that hung from the key of the second bike she owned in Amsterdam.







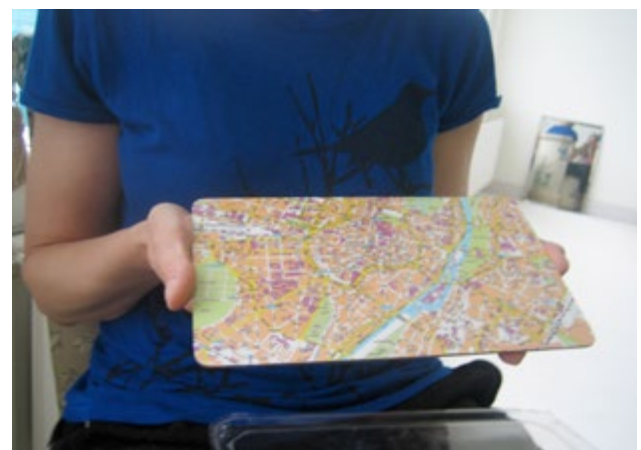
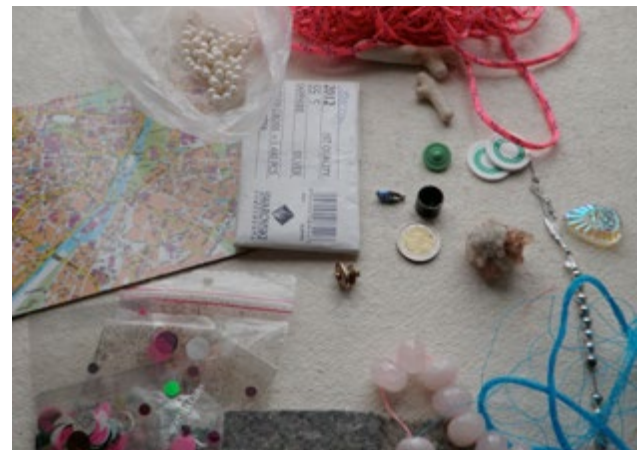
JEANNETTE JANSEN

“It’s broken and I can’t fix it”

Jeannette Jansen is German but lives in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She is a jeweller and a graphic designer.

We first met her through a friend of a friend who introduced us because she was a jeweller. We had a nice talk and became friends over the following weeks. Jeanette invited us to her beautiful apartment where we interviewed her and had coffee and cake after she had showed us her work.

She had prepared a box with many objects for the project and told us the story behind each one. Most of them related to her life: family, relationships, her own work, her choices and preferences. There were a few broken pieces of jewellery and also more symbolic objects, like a coin or a map, which all came with their own story. There was also a lot of glitter: “one of my favourite things”, according to Jeanette.







LINDA MAISSAN

“I know nothing about contemporary jewellery”

Linda Maissan lives in Maastricht, the Netherlands. She is an artist and a designer. She makes collages and clothes out of second-hand materials. Linda explained to us: “For me it is easier to start with things that are already there, I can’t start with nothing”. She also enjoys cooking and eating. Linda does not wear jewellery often, only a brooch from time to time.

We interviewed Linda in our studio. Because she stayed in Amsterdam overnight we had dinner together and reminisced about the past. She brought a box with small pieces of jewellery she had bought or had been given as a child and a teenager and did not wear anymore. The box also contained the broken leg of a cuddly toy: Linda said it had once belonged to a dog called Spooky.





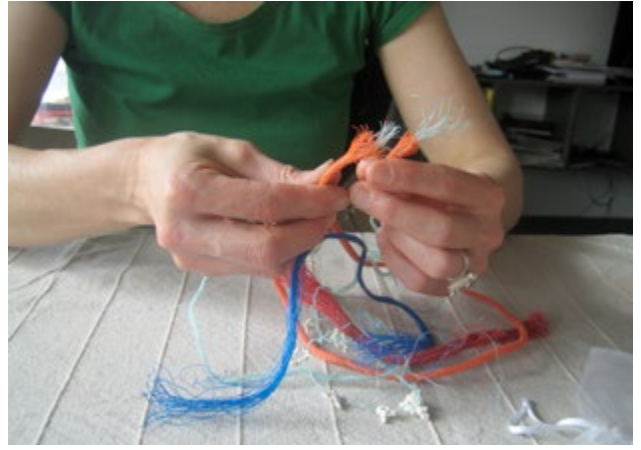


SARA

“I am ready to show more of who I am”

Sara lives in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and is an immigration law advisor. She wears jewellery when she does not forget to put it on. What kind of jewels she wears depends on how she feels. Sara Visbeek: “A piece of jewellery does something to a person. Contemporary jewellery can give you a lot of freedom.”

We met Sara several times during our stay, at openings and art fairs, and even at the opera. We e-mailed back and forth a few times before she finally decided to join the project. She brought very diverse materials to the interview. After a long conversation about jewellery and the way we work, she added new material, mainly objects she had found on the Dutch seashore, where she often goes for a walk.







MARJAN UNGER

“We are not bodies, we are people!”

Marjan Unger lives in Bussum, the Netherlands. She is an art historian, specialised in applied arts. Marjan has a collection of all kinds of jewellery, including family heirlooms, ethnic pieces, souvenirs, fashion and art pieces. She mixes them and wears all of them, but not on the skin because she is allergic to many materials.

We interviewed her in her garden while we enjoyed coffee and homemade apple cake. Initially she gave us her first choice: a toy from her childhood, a cooking utensil (we discovered her initials had been engraved on it). Later she chose other pieces of her collection that were related to the kitchen. Marjan: “Cooking is a social activity and people are able to join in. It is something that is very important in the female line of my family.” About the colour she said: “Let’s stay with this colour because I will turn grey anyway.”





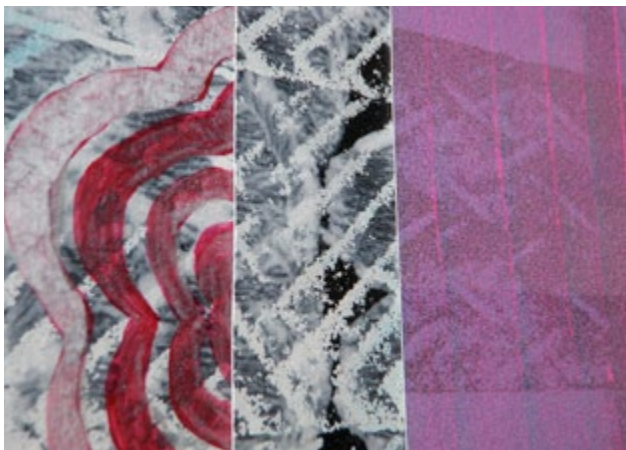


EVA NOOTER

“I tried to work with paper in a more sculptural way”

Eva Nooter lives in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She is a visual artist and works as a bookkeeper for other artists.

We interviewed her in our studio. Eva brought a portfolio to show us her work. She used to work in ceramics, but now uses cuttings and painted paper to make two-dimensional pieces that can be hung on a wall. She gave us some scraps of the painted paper and later sent us more by post. This paper inspired us to reuse one of our old pieces, made out of newspapers. We combined this with Eva's paper to make a new piece in which a necklace and a brooch are integrated.





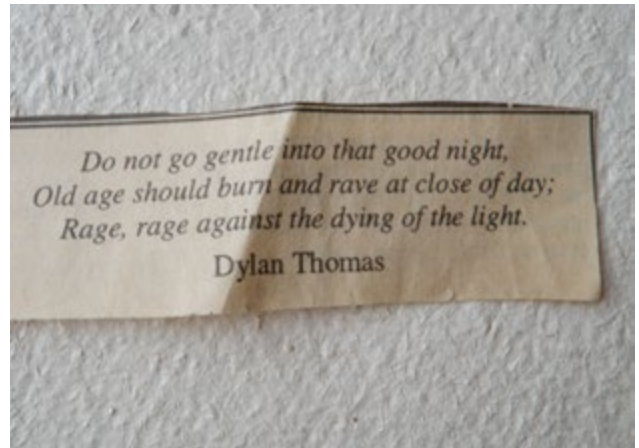


CLAARTJE KEUR

“He was a Socialist who wore jewelry”

Claartje Keur became a photographer and jewellery collector in 1989. She has been living in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands, across the street from CODA Museum since 1975. We interviewed Claartje in our studio. She brought her camera along and took many photos of us while we talked. She also brought a small wooden box that used to belong to her late husband Jan, whom she married at the end of the seventies and who died eight years ago. The box was filled with small personal objects, pins, photographs, pendants, a newspaper cutting of a Dylan Thomas poem and a hand-written document. Later, she emailed us a picture of her husband with his pipe.

Claartje Keur always wears jewellery and has a preference for necklaces.







CHRISTEL MEIJEL

“I like necklaces that make a statement”

Christel Meijel lives in Sittard in the south of the Netherlands. She is studying to be a social worker and likes travelling, visiting festivals, shopping, and fashion. Christel was the youngest person we interviewed. We interviewed her in our studio, together with a friend. She brought an eclectic collection of objects that were linked to her childhood and youth. These objects related to significant moments in her life, like the time she got her first job. The collection included a dream catcher, a lucky doll, a toy car she was given when she passed her driving test, souvenirs from her first trip to Paris, and coins from all the places she visited.

Christel always wears earrings but also likes big necklaces: “something that reflects your personality”. She describes herself as “a romantic”.





IRIS DIJKSTRA

“I want to experience the world”

Iris lives in Heerlen, the Netherlands and has studied International Business and Fashion Retail and Merchandising.

Despite her young age, she has already lived and studied in Shanghai and Hong Kong. She is interested in travelling and experiencing different cultures, which is why she attended our lecture at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Maastricht; she wanted to know more about Buenos Aires and hear about a different approach to fashion.

Iris brought different materials in the same colour range to the interview. She had a special way of displaying them on the table, arranged by hierarchy, colour and form, in a highly conscious and controlled way.







MONIKA AUCH

“I need edelweiss to give me courage”

Monika was born in Germany but has been living in the Netherlands for forty years. Her work includes research on the intelligence of the hand, weaving, silk screen printing, writing, initiating art projects, interviewing artists, and publishing. Monika likes wearing large pieces of jewellery when she gives lectures because they attract attention. This way, she uses jewellery as a conversation piece. She gave us some materials the first time we met and sent us more by post with a note that told us something about each object. Monika stressed that she wanted to wear the piece of jewellery we would create.



for a religious garment of Saint Agnes.

I visited: Ireland - the claddagh ring;
 ers = G.B.; pearly flower = from Heidelberg, a
 illustrator, Dick Bruna! city I'm at home!

I need a EDELWEISS for courage.

very spiteful, manipulative woman without heavy
 intelligence of the hand since 2003, heart!
 ecting yarn. CAD/CAM weaving

Make something with love forme! Not too heavy!
please!



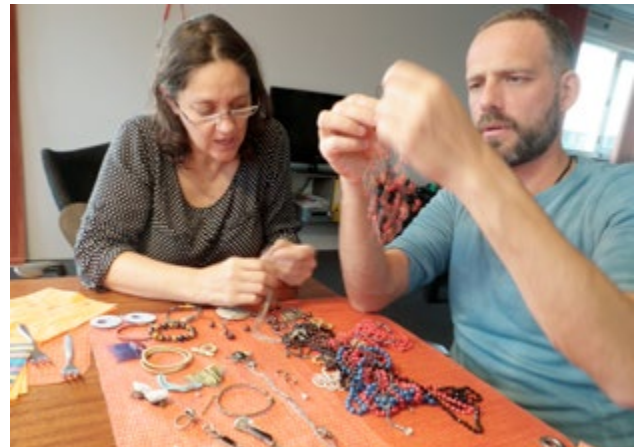


JAN WILLEM KORTEWEG

“I remember her wearing the red ones”

Valeria: Jan Willem Korteweg was my first neighbour when I stayed in Holland in 1997. He is a friend whom I had not seen for many years. When we met again after such a long time he told us he had recently lost his parents in an accident. When we told him about this project he said he had something he would like to donate.

On our last night in Amsterdam we invited him over for dinner and he brought a glass jar full of jewellery from his mother's bedroom. He showed us the colourful objects, many of which he remembered from his childhood, and told us stories about his mother. He was also very interested in learning about the materials used to manufacture the jewels and wanted to know when they were made. Jan Willem kept a stone bracelet to wear himself.







ELA BAUER

“The jacket looks so alive!”

Ela was born in Poland and grew up in Israel. She has been living in Amsterdam since 1990. She is a jewellery designer.

We met Ela several times in Amsterdam. She attended our lecture at the Rietveld Academy, we met her by chance at a flea market and she visited us in our studio. Still, she only decided to participate in the project on the last day of our stay in Holland, during our farewell party.

She sent her materials to us a few months later through Rian de Jong and Herman Marres, who visited Buenos Aires. We received an old jacket made from rabbit fur that had belonged to her daughters when they were very young. It had first belonged to Ruby, her eldest, and was then passed on to Julia, her youngest. Ela: “Julia has trouble saying goodbye to things that have been part of her life, so me giving you this jacket was difficult for her.”







Intern: Giedre Lisauskaite

Photo: Damián Wasser

Video: Ezequiel Hilbert

<http://vimeo.com/estudiovis/broken>

Thanks to:

Rian de Jong & Herman Marres

Liesbeth van Besten

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs - República Argentina