



Peter Deckers (ed.)
**CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY
 IN CONTEXT**
 a Handshake blueprint

With essays by Kim Paton, Liesbeth den Besten, Sian van Dyk, Peter Deckers and Benjamin Lignel
 128 pp., 17 x 24 cm, 150 colour ills.
 Hardcover
 English

€ 28 [D] / US\$ 50 / £ 28
 ISBN 978-3-89790-498-9



526 gr
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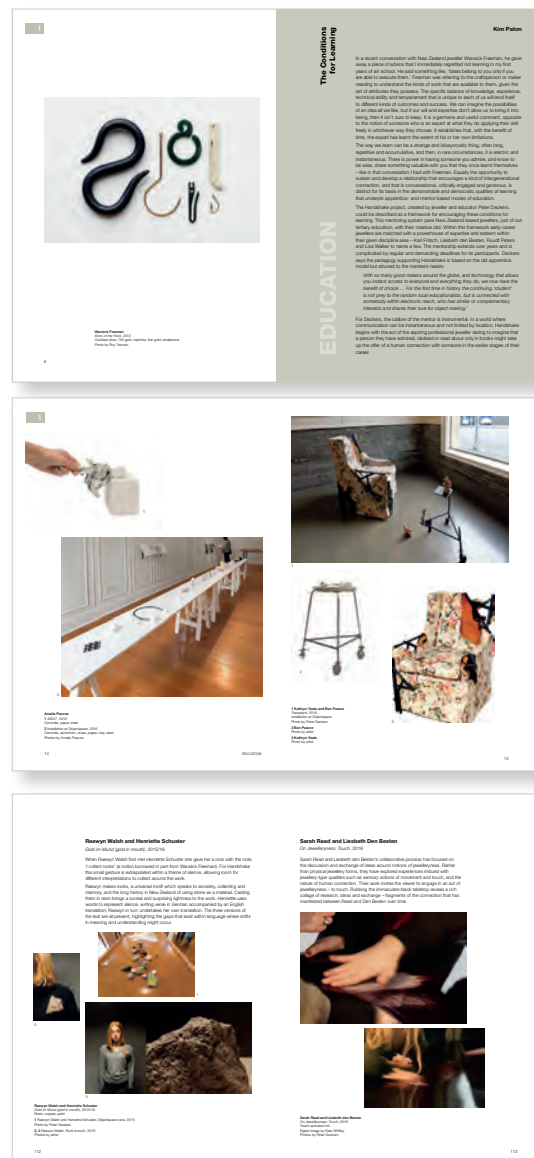
This book unpacks the creative jewellery paradigm into its widest context. Five international writers draw a fascinating and comprehensive picture of contemporary jewellery in the twenty-first century. Through a rich palette of themes, works, reports and concepts from current art practices, they illuminate the conditions and interconnections of education, making, presentation and networking in design and art using the example of the New Zealand Handshake project. This book will enrich and bring pleasure to all who are interested in the visual arts in their broadest sense!

The Handshake project supports emerging New Zealand jewellery artists, allowing them to develop ideas and artworks for a succession of exhibitions with the assistance of a chosen mentor. The Handshake recipients are presented with opportunities to develop work for a number of exciting challenges, including collaborations and national and international exhibitions. The progressive nature of the programme aims to develop independent makers with an innovative and energetic practice.

A fascinating picture of contemporary jewellery in the twenty-first century, illuminating the conditions and interconnections of education, making, presentation, marketing and networking in design and art, using the example of the New Zealand Handshake project

Featuring essays about education, making, curating, exhibiting and collaborating

EXHIBITION: The Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt (NZ), 5.8.-3.12.2017



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Collaboration exhibition at Objectspace Auckland 2016

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Education: *The Conditions for Learning* by Kim Paton
Situating within the shifting and unstable landscape of formal education for craft-based practice in New Zealand, this chapter uses Handshake as a lens with which to examine the principles that might encourage the optimal conditions for learning. Tracing the major period of development of contemporary jewellery in New Zealand, Kim discusses Handshake's reinterpretation of mentor- and apprentice-based models of learning within a broader framework that encourages experimentation and embraces the increasing fluidity of the parameters of contemporary craft.

Making: *Jewellery Making* by Liesbeth den Besten
By recognising the invigorating role of the wearer, jewellers have changed their making process. Liesbeth's chapter shows that today's contemporary jewellery is as much a social and human activity and endeavor as it is an artistic accomplishment.

Curation: *Reflect and Respond* by Sian van Dyk
Sian's curatorial methodology for the exhibition Handshake 3: reflect at The Dowse Art Museum explores how contemporary jewellery can be displayed and interpreted by asking HS3 participants to respond to a provocation about the self-reflexive nature of contemporary jewellery, both in content and installation. Sian also considers how this field can be brought to a wider audience.

Exhibition: *Show it All* by Peter Deckers
Exhibitions are the lifeblood of each jewellery artist. Throughout history their practice has shifted, from the body to the museum and now virtual. The Handshake project magnifier highlights some of these international shifts, and samples their connections, issues and trends.

Collaboration: *Je t'aime, moi non plus* by Benjamin Lignel
Using Richard Sennett's Together as a point of departure, Ben's essay looks at the social and creative precedents that inform the idea of collaboration in the arts today and at the way the Handshake project has channelled the promises it holds.

ABOUT THE HANDSHAKE PROJECT

The Handshake project (HS) selects emerging New Zealand jewellery artists and allows them to develop ideas and work for a succession of exhibitions with the assistance of a chosen or appointed mentor. After two projects, a 'best of' from the previous Handshakes has the opportunity to develop new work for a number of exciting challenges that include collaborations, and national and international exhibitions. This programme aims to build independent makers who have an innovative and energetic practice.

Handshake is a space where established artists hand over some of their quality knowledge to those asking for a 'hand'; it is a two-way project that encourages symbiosis and give and take.

The project began in February 2011, and was created by Wellington-based artist, curator and tutor Peter Deckers. The idea was born out of recognition of the need for ongoing support for talented New Zealand graduates after completing their jewellery or art study. Handshake reverses the old apprentice model, whereby a mentee works for a mentor – here the mentor, through feedback and support in the development of ideas and presentation, works more for the mentee.

Handshake puts on a series of exhibitions for each project. These are unique, purpose made and a natural progression of each makers' work from their former exhibition. Each project is recorded and reflected on a dedicated website: www.handshakeproject.com.

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