



The Secret of Hammering Gold

Traditional crafts can disappear more quickly than one might think. To keep traditional gold hammering from sliding into obscurity: that is the aim of the Leipzig-based goldsmith Thomas Garcia. For over 10 years now, he has sold Eduard Fidel's collection of hand-hammered gold jewelry, "object line," alongside and as a complement to his own jewelry collections. Fidel first admired this age-old craft in the work of the American jewelry artist Michael Good, later learning it himself and finally perfecting it through long years of developing ever newer methods. When age compelled Fidel to set aside his work, he found in the young Thomas Garcia not only a supporter fascinated by the art, but also an apt pupil and an eager successor. Since time immemorial fascinated by the masterly lines created by the interplay between the brightly gleaming and silken matte surfaces common to beaten jewelry, Garcia will now carry on and further develop Eduard Fidel's work and the art of hammering itself. www.garcia-gold.de • *cete*

Special Activities at Le Arti Orafe, Florence

Every year the "Le Arti Orafe Jewellery School" in Florence – also the only private training institute accredited by the Educational Authority for training courses in the jewelry sector – offers various special activities. This year, the goldsmith and jewelry artist Giovanni Corvaja, born in 1971 in Padua, was persuaded to give a granulation course. In the two sections of the course (Nov. 3-8 and 10-13, 2003), participants will receive an overview of the principles of granulation and gradually learn the technique themselves, so that at the end of the course, each of them will be able to create and complete his or her own piece of jewelry. With approximately 80 students per year from all over the world, the school has been an important landmark on the international jewelry scene for over 20 years. Its initiatives are designed to promote new varieties of artistic craftsmanship, which start from the craft tradition and evolve in line with the trends and research of contemporary design.

More information regarding courses of study or the granulation course held by Giovanni Corvaja is available at www.artiorafe.it • *cete*

Brooch by Giovanni Corvaja, platinum and fine gold granules



Crystal Fabric

With his new material "Crystal Fabric," Swarovski, a worldwide leader in production of cut crystal, now melds fabric and crystal to create a second skin. Vivienne Westwood, one of the most creative designers internationally, found inspiration for new, fascinating creations for the debut of the extremely light material, which may be used across its whole surface or partly. The new foil, which stands at the crossroads between jewelry and textiles, has tiny cut crystals sewn all over its surface and can be ironed, sewn, or glued to materials such as lace, silk, denim, leather, or synthetics, thus offering a multitude of creative possibilities. Information: www.swarovski.com • *kph*

Lotus Earrings or Cat Vases

Now, seekers of individual pieces can search from home, round the clock. The Bundesverband Kunsthandwerk (Federal Association for Artisan Crafts, or BK for short), a Germany-wide umbrella organization for current artisans, designers, and applied artists, is offering as of now an online shop with individual and exclusive unique pieces and products from small series out of the realm of artisan crafts. All the prices listed there include shipping and handling costs. If you still don't find what you are looking for, you can naturally also surf to the websites of a large number of other makers' workshops and galleries. Alongside the online shop, the BK's website lists the addresses of around 1,500 artisans, artists, and designers throughout Germany. Information: www.bundesverband-kunsthandwerk.de/shop • *kph*