



Silver in Contemporary Life  
EXHIBITIONS | EVENTS | CONVERSATIONS

[www.silverspeaks.co.uk](http://www.silverspeaks.co.uk)

**Press Release: Draft**  
**London, December 2015**

**SILVER SPEAKS**  
**A celebration of silver in contemporary life**  
**Exhibitions | Events | Conversations**  
**March 2016 – July 2017**

*Silver Speaks* is a year long series of events to be held around the country to celebrate the exceptional level of creativity and skill in British silversmithing today. The spotlight will shine on some of the most exciting artists and designers – exploring the diverse applications of the material, from the experimental to the traditional, the sculptural to the functional. It will showcase the remarkable uses of silver and how works can be commissioned to enhance contemporary living, architecture and fashion.

The programme of events has been organised by Contemporary British Silversmiths, the leading association for design-based contemporary silver, which is sponsored by the Goldsmiths' Company. The focus of the programme, *Silver Speaks: Idea to Object* and the supporting public symposium *Silver in Contemporary Life*, are produced in collaboration with the V&A.

***Silver Speaks: Idea to Object, curated by Corinne Julius***  
**8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017**  
**Silver Galleries, V&A**

*Silver Speaks: Idea to Object* traces how a work in silver is brought into being from the inspiration, through sketches, models, material experimentation and construction processes, to the final piece. The selected designs in this free display at the V&A encompass a variety of beautiful and intriguing objects – both sculptural and functional – created using a range of different processes, from the traditional to the most cutting edge.

For more information, please contact  
Zoe Ramsay at Cultural-Agenda  
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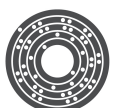


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18 of Britain's leading silversmiths, all of whom are members of Contemporary British Silversmiths, have been selected by curator and critic Corinne Julius. They will display specially commissioned works at the V&A's Silver Galleries from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017. The featured craftspeople include Rauni Higson, Kevin Grey, a car-maker who helped make the Sultan of Brunei's series of unique Bentleys and Juliette Bigley, a health care manager for the NHS – they have all trained to become consummate silversmiths.

Curator Corinne Julius comments: "British silversmithing is at the forefront of contemporary craft and Britain is the world's centre for modern studio silver. Silver has become a medium of choice for the expression of ideas. Silver fell out of favour but is now being rediscovered and enjoyed by a new generation. When Contemporary British Silversmiths asked me to curate an exhibition, I wanted to show not only what an extraordinary material silver is, with its myriad qualities, but also how silversmiths use a combination of head, heart and hands to produce their work. The idea behind the object, how that is developed, the story it tells and the processes used in its making, are inherent components of the final work."

Multidisciplinary designer and artist Marcin Rusak will work alongside Corinne Julius to design the installation.

This event celebrates the joint 20<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of Contemporary British Silversmiths and the V&A's Silver Galleries.

### ***Silver Speaks: For the Nation***

**Launch of the latest commission of the Silver Trust**

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017**

**Silver Galleries, V&A**

To celebrate 30 years of commissioning contemporary British silver for its collection, The Silver Trust will be unveiling its latest exciting commission at the V&A.

The Silver Trust, a registered UK charity, was founded in 1986 with the goal of supporting

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and showcasing the talented silversmiths working throughout the United Kingdom. Its work has been showcased through a loan of the collection, mostly to 10 Downing Street, where the pieces were conceived to be used for government entertaining. During the 30-year history of the Trust, the collection has been seen around the world through a series of exhibitions. The Trust is honoured to work with many of the greatest silversmiths in building the collection and often partners with Contemporary British Silversmiths.

***Silver Speaks: Hold***

**Discovering the Secret Skills of the Silversmith**

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**The Library, Goldsmiths' Hall**

**In association with London Craft Week**

*Hold* is a one-day public handling session. The event offers the chance to handle silver with a leading silversmith, discover how it is made and learn how closely guarded skills continue to be passed down from Master to Apprentice. The work of associations like Contemporary British Silversmiths to promote craft skills in the modern world will also be explained by Karin Paynter of Contemporary British Silversmiths. Archivists will be on hand to tell the story of how silversmithing was taught and show treasures, including apprentice records dating back to 1334, some of the earliest surviving goldsmithing manuals and rare design drawings.

***Silver Speaks: Make***

***Silversmithing Workshop***

**7<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Art Studio, V&A**

**In association with London Craft Week**

*Make* is a one-day silversmithing workshop open to the public. Offering the opportunity to create a small item in silver, from the design concept through to production.

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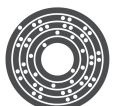
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### ***Silver Speaks: Form***

#### ***Exhibition***

**1<sup>st</sup> June – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016**

**The Goldsmiths' Centre**

*Form* is an exhibition of work by members of Contemporary British Silversmiths. It will complement the *Silver Speaks: Idea to Object* exhibition at the V&A. Makers will be showing different skills and processes through their work and exhibiting some their favourite tools and techniques. Themes will include new technologies, decorative finishes, traditional techniques and engraving.

### ***Silver Speaks: Silver in Contemporary Life***

#### ***Public Symposium***

**Date tbc**

**The Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre, V&A**

To complement *Silver Speaks: Idea to Object*, there will be a one-day public symposium at the V&A. The focus will be on the role of silver, its unique properties and how it has shaped British culture from the past to the present. Leading cultural commentators, designers and silversmiths will explore silver across craft and design practices. This symposium is in partnership with Contemporary British Silversmiths and celebrates the joint 20th anniversary of Contemporary British Silversmiths and the V&A's Whiteley Silver Galleries.

### **Related Events**

There will be a number of smaller related events, including selling shows at high profile retail outlets and galleries. Details to follow. There will be an opportunity for bespoke items of silver to be purchased from the V&A shop.

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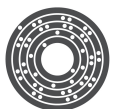


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## Notes to Editors

Biographies of all makers, the curator and designer and images of works are available

Event: *Silver Speaks: Idea to Object*  
Dates: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017  
Location: Silver Galleries in the V&A, Cromwell Rd, London SW7 2RL  
Website: [vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk)  
Telephone: +44 20 7942 2000  
Opening Hours: Daily: 10.00 – 17.45  
Friday: 10.00 – 22.00 Friday  
Admission: Free  
Underground: South Kensington – Circle, District and Piccadilly lines

Event: *Silver Speaks: For the Nation*  
Dates: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017  
Location: Silver Galleries in the V&A, Cromwell Rd, London SW7 2RL  
Website: [vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk)  
Telephone: +44 20 7942 2000  
Opening Hours: Daily: 10.00 – 17.45,  
Friday: 10.00 – 22.00 Friday  
Admission: Free  
Underground: South Kensington – Circle, District and Piccadilly lines

Event: *Silver Speaks: Hold*  
Dates: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
Location: The Library, Goldsmiths' Hall, The Goldsmiths' Centre, 42 Britton St, London EC1M 5AD  
Website: [goldsmiths-centre.org](http://goldsmiths-centre.org)  
Telephone: +44 20 7566 7650  
Opening Hours: 14.00 – 16.00  
Admission: Free - bookable via London Craft Week – [londoncraftweek.com](http://londoncraftweek.com)  
Underground: Farringdon – Metropolitan and Hammersmith & City Lines

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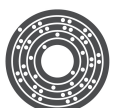


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Event: *Silver Speaks: Make*  
Dates: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
Location: Art Studio, V&A, Cromwell Rd, London SW7 2RL  
Website: [vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk)  
Telephone: +44 20 7942 2000  
Opening Hours: 10.00 – 16.30  
Admission: Bookable through V&A website  
Underground: South Kensington – Circle, District and Piccadilly lines

Event: *Silver Speaks: Form*  
Dates: 1<sup>st</sup> June – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016  
Location: The Goldsmiths' Centre, 42 Britton St, London EC1M 5AD  
Website: [goldsmiths-centre.org](http://goldsmiths-centre.org)  
Telephone: +44 20 7566 7650  
Opening Hours: 08.00 – 18.00 Monday to Friday  
Admission: Free  
Underground: Farringdon – Metropolitan and Hammersmith & City Lines

Event: *Silver Speaks: Public Symposium on Silver in Contemporary Life*  
Dates: tbc  
Location: V&A, Cromwell Rd, London SW7 2RL  
Website: [vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk)  
Telephone: +44 20 7942 2000  
Opening Hours: 10.00 – 16.30  
Admission: Full Price: £35, Concession: £30, Student £15  
Underground: South Kensington – Circle, District and Piccadilly lines

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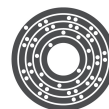


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### **About Contemporary British Silversmiths**

Contemporary British Silversmiths is the only professional body exclusively representing UK silversmiths both nationally and internationally. The association was set up in 1996 with the aim of raising the profile of the unique craft of silversmithing through public exhibitions.

In promoting the design and creativity of the silversmith, it has worked closely with institutions such as the Goldsmiths' Company, the Victoria and Albert Museum, Christie's London and the Silver Trust Collection at Downing Street to create bespoke exhibitions that support its aims of promoting contemporary silver to a global audience.

[contemporarybritishsilversmiths.org](http://contemporarybritishsilversmiths.org)

### **About The Silver Trust**

The Silver Trust was founded in 1986 with the goal of supporting and showcasing the talented silversmiths working throughout the United Kingdom. Their work has been showcased through a loan of the collection, mostly to 10 Downing Street, where the pieces were conceived to be used for government entertaining. During the 30 year history of the Trust the collection has been seen around the world through a series of exhibitions. The Trust has been honoured to have worked with many of the greatest silversmiths in building the collection. It is fitting therefore that to celebrate its 30th anniversary it has commissioned an exciting new piece, which will have its public unveiling at the V&A in 2016.

[silvertrust.co.uk](http://silvertrust.co.uk)

### **About The Goldsmiths' Company**

One of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of the City of London, The Goldsmiths' Company received its first Royal Charter in 1327. The Company's Assay Office has been responsible since 1300 for testing the quality of precious metals.

The Company is the principal patron of modern jewellers and silversmiths, continuing to play an important role in support of the craft, funding apprenticeships and assisting with the technical training of aspiring designer-makers. 2012 saw the opening of The Goldsmiths'

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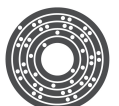
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Centre in Clerkenwell, a state-of-the-art home for the Goldsmiths' Institute comprising workshops, exhibition space and conference facilities. The Company supports a wide range of other charitable causes and pursues a number of educational projects with schools.

The Goldsmiths' Company's private collection of silver is one of the largest in the UK, comprising 8,000 items dating from 1300 to the present day. Its contemporary collections are world renowned.

[thegoldsmiths.co.uk](http://thegoldsmiths.co.uk)

### **About the V&A**

The V&A is the world's leading museum of art and design with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity. It was established to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, the V&A's collections, which span over 5000 years of human creativity in virtually every medium and from many parts of the world, continue to intrigue, inspire and inform.

[vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk)

### **About London Craft Week**

London Craft Week is an annual event that showcases exceptional craftsmanship through a journey-of-discovery programme featuring hidden workshops and unknown makers alongside celebrated masters, famous studios, galleries, shops and luxury brands. The aim is to experience craft not just as static objects or as brand-led 'fashion' or 'design' but to understand the full context in which they were made, why they are special, meet the creators, and even have a try yourself. London Craft Week is independent, not-for-profit and supported by founding partner Vacheron Constantin.

[londoncraftweek.com](http://londoncraftweek.com)

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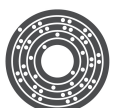


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