

Artist résumé

Annie Sibert's work intimately relates to the place where she creates her jewels. It cannot be separated from the context of the workshop.

What Annie aims to reveal is the trace left by her gesture and by the tools she uses.

Her approach therefore appears as opposed to that of the designers of classical jewels whose pure and carefully polished shapes erase any trace of both human intervention and of the quality of the materials.

Indeed, some of her jewels are stamped with all the marks necessarily imposed by metal work. She does not try to wipe them off or to display any apparent easy craftsmanship, but rather to reveal the labour of the workshop, the bites of the tool into the metal, or the weight of the sledgehammer crushing a pipe.

The tools and the materials are essential in the process of metal designing.

Annie tests the materials she uses. This testing concept exists both in the designing process and when the jewels are actually worn, as they are not meant to facilitate movements but somehow to restrain them.

This induces the wearer to manipulate the jewel, in order to relieve the tension due to the weight or to the bulk of the jewel. Typically, the wearer will take the jewel off, set it down. The jewel then becomes an object to gaze at, a sculpture.
Camille Roux

I am interested in the notions of jewels and sculptures. In fact I consider myself both as a jewel maker and a sculptor. I experiment this medium through art installations, performances and photographs.

I value the notion of touch and I share it with others. It originates from my fascination for the world of the workshop, of tools, materials, their colours and smells. Touching, wearing, taking off, also mean playing, thus giving life to the object, and as Franz West used to do, using one's body as a pedestal.

I create series of rings that i call Portable Sculptures. They constitute sensitive experiences of the workshop : I take in the smell of the various metals, I experiment on their malleability, I play with their colours, i test their limits and those of the tools i use. With each new trial, I combine the materials and imagine shapes and techniques to design large rings.

My relationship with a jewel is definitely a playful one: I put it on, take it off, exchange it, set it down, put it back on. As my rings are sometimes very heavy, the wearer has to be cautious; wearing an object becomes a very special experience, something that means more than just dressing up.

Annie Sibert