

PRESS RELEASE



Exhibition with jewellery artist Irene Griegst shows both older central pieces and completely new works

*From 15 February – 4 May 2008
Opening Thursday 14 February 5 PM*

Jewellery from an exotic and poetic world

Irene Griegst moves in an alien, poetic world. There is often a narrative element in her jewellery, the natural world – flowers, leaves and insects unfold. Just as often purely gold, precious stones and pearls speak their own poetic language. The colourful tradition of the Orient is Irene Griegst's ballast and unfolds itself in textiles, as well as jewellery. She was born in Morocco, trained partly Jerusalem, partly in France, before she with Arje Griegst found her permanent place of residence in Copenhagen.

From her childhood in Casablanca Irene Griegst was familiar with the fine embroideries on the Moroccan women's dress and it has had an influence on her jewellery. "I sow my jewellery with gold thread", she once said, but the thread is only a part of Irene Griegst's jewellery, where precious stones, pearls, coral, enamel and thin gold plate is gathered into a light, poetic work of art on the thread.

Irene Griegst distinguishes herself by creating much of her jewellery as diadems, a shape you would have thought belonged to the past, but which with the recent years growing interest in exotic cultures again has become popular. The inspiration seems to come from both the jewellery of Antiquity, as well as the cultural treasures of the Mediterranean, but for us here in the North, the thought also drifts to girls with the garlands made from wild flowers in their hair. Irene Griegst is unequalled in this area. She utilizes the spiral effect, which makes her diadems almost turn around the hair, with golden leaves on stems, stones and pearls as flower buds and insects quivering delicately on the branches. A hairnet

DET DANSKE
KUNSTINDUSTRIMUSEUM
BREDGADE 68
DENMARK
TEL +45 3318 5660
FAX +45 3318 5666
INFO@KUNSTINDUSTRIMUSEET.DK
WWW.KUNSTINDUSTRIMUSEET.DK
CVR NR 55798516

THE NATIONAL ART
& DESIGN LIBRARY
BIB@KUNSTINDUSTRIMUSEET.DK
WWW.DKIM.DK

woven with golden thread has captured a fish and an anemone, while four other garlands represent the four seasons.

The spiral effect is echoed in her light earrings where the thread is turned through the ear, while diamonds, rubies, emeralds, pearls and gold leaves tinkle like flowers in the wind. No other Danish jewellery artist has a style as poetic and light as Irene Griegst.

Facial jewellery is another area that Irene Griegst cultivates. Taking her inspiration from the Muslim women's dress which hides the face, she has produced a piece of jewellery, a chain that lies under the eyes from which little chains in different lengths with gold flowers attached fall like tears over the cheeks. The facial jewellery made from two flat gold ribbons, one over the forehead and one under the eyes, joined across the bridge of the nose. In her neck jewellery she occasionally shows a slightly firmer form, like for example in the elegant butterfly in gold with a palmette pattern or in "The Mouse Stairway" folded in gold.

Irene Griegst's jewellery sends the thoughts drifting – imagination, just like her insects and flowers, flies away to a foreign world where wearing jewellery is a necessity and constant joy.

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Information

Secretary and Press Contact: Lotte Rohde

Tel. 33 18 56 77 mail lro@Kunstindustrimuseet.dk