

A LIFE IN JEWELLERY

In a lifetime's quest for technical perfection, Erica has studied with an Indian Master goldsmith, acquired skills in ancient Etruscan techniques, and worked with some of the leading figures of modern jewellery.

She combines exceptional craftsmanship with a delight in the qualities of her favourite materials of gold, platinum and gemstones.

Inspired by nature, Erica's work is suffused with light and meaning: 'Not the image of a swallow, but its flight on a summer's evening.'

Born 23rd August 1967, Somerset, UK

1984 Art Foundation course and Art A level

1985 Apprenticeship with traditional Indian jewellers in Bristol: – Making 22ct and pure gold jewellery, including ceremonial pieces using traditional Indian techniques.

1987 Worked for Gold and Silver Studio in Bath at the bench, making and designing commissions in gold, silver and platinum.

Attended masterclasses in advanced jewellery-making techniques with Michael Page (formerly head of jewellery at the Sir John Cass College, London).

Attended masterclasses in gemstone setting with Tony York, Birmingham.

1990 Worked for Michael Page in Drewsteignton, Devon for London-based customers. Learned advanced practical techniques in traditional 'diamond mounting' skills.

Worked in private workshop of silversmith Patrick Hawksley, Chagford, Devon, where explored new ideas and experienced different metal-working techniques.

1992 Set up own business in Wells, Somerset, and continued there for 13 years.

2005 Moved in May to new studio gallery in Wedmore, Somerset.

Nature of work

Commissions, individual one-off pieces and creating collections.

Specialist in granulation, diamonds, unusual gemstones, platinum and hand-alloyed gold.

Qualified gemmologist and diamond grader.

Teaching

Taught jewellery-making for two years at Strode College, Street, Somerset: gave demonstrations of basic techniques; helped individuals achieve their goals from design to finished pieces.

Given talks and demonstrations about work and gemstones.

While running business in Wells, trained three full-time trainees in jewellery-making.

Also given three pupils work experience in basic jewellery-making techniques.

Awards and Exhibitions

1997 Lesley Fitzgerald Award

2002 Kayman Award Finalist 'Secret Love' exhibited with British Jeweller's Association at N.E.C Birmingham.

2004 Exhibited 'The Swan Collection' at The Bishop's Palace, Wells.

2006 Demonstrated and exhibited at Art in Action.

2006 Exhibition of granulation work in gallery in Wedmore.

2006 Created and exhibited the Wedmore Ring.

2007 Kayman Award Third Prize: 'Birthday Boogie-woogie'.

2007 Exhibited with British Jeweller's Association at N.E.C. Birmingham.

2007 Selected to display work on the Worshipful Company of Goldsmith's web site 'Who's Who in Gold and Silver'.

2007 Demonstrating and exhibiting at Art in Action

Continuing education

1996 Qualified as F.G.A. (Fellow of Gemmological Association of Great Britain)

1997 Qualified as D.G.A. (Diamond Diploma, distinction pass).

1997 Retail Jeweller's Diploma and Lesley Fitzgerald Award.

2004 'Investors in People' award

2004 Attended a masterclass at Birmingham School of Jewellery in granulation with Giovanni Corvaja.

2005 Attended a masterclass at Birmingham School of Jewellery in micro-wire working.

2005 Attended a masterclass in tool making at West Dean College Chichester.