

Silver - Embracing the new, finally.

Perhaps a good place to start a new blog on the decorative arts world; something new in the world of silver craftsmanship and design.

Having spent the last few years being consistently frustrated with the lack of originality in the designs of contemporary silversmiths, I'm very pleased to see that the breath-of-fresh-air works of **Kevin Grey** (www.kevingrey.co.uk) will be exhibited for the first time at the annual Goldsmiths Fair in London (Sept 27th - Oct 10th www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk)



Sinew Vessel, By Kevin Grey. Using laser and TIG welding.

On show will be Sinew Vessel. This work is something to be applauded. I really like the striking form. He has a background in the luxury motor industry, hand-making bespoke piece for the likes of Bentley and Rolls Royce. Along the way, Grey picked up craftsmanship skills alongside new cutting edge techniques.

It's these particular skills and techniques that he applies to his silver works. By using laser and TIG welding he's able to intricately weld repeated hand-cut shapes with little or no sign of a join. I particularly like the fact that he allows these unorthodox silversmithing techniques to actually dictate the design of his pieces, and determine the shapes and textures he achieves in his creations.

It's refreshing to see someone do something original by exploring what you can do by using techniques that are available, rather than looking at what has been done before.

This may sound obvious but it really is a breath of fresh air given the recent offerings from the world of contemporary silversmithing - where

all too familiar designs and forms take their influences from what other people have designed before.

Take a look at this tea-pot, designed by Dr. Christopher Dresser. I can't tell you how many silversmiths look at this form and try and make it all over again. It's 140 years old. Given this, Kevin Grey's work should be seen, in the history of design silver, as notable.



Tea Pot, Dr Christopher Dresser c1870

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