

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

**Unique contemporary art celebrating the British countryside on sale at London exhibition this week**

Master enameller and four times Jacques Cartier winner Fred Rich, will show his latest stunning enamelware piece on sale for £24,000 at this year's silverware and bespoke furniture exhibition – **Inspired**, which opens tomorrow.

Several weeks in the making, *Hidden Hedgerows* is a remarkable solid silver beaker, incorporating 22ct gold wires, expertly decorated with intricate fine enamel work, inspired by the British countryside.

The Inspired exhibition rings from May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> at the Goldsmiths Centre, Britton Street, London EC1, will be showcasing a range of one-of-a-kind silverware and furniture from British craftsmen.



Speaking of his design, Fred Rich said: “The *Hidden Hedgerows* design depicts a tangled mass of textures, patterns and incredible colours found concealed within countryside hedgerows. Lichen covered blackthorn stems in winter sun, resplendent in green gold, a pop of burgundy red dogwood and shriveled hawthorn berries all deliver a sense of transparency and reflect the passing of time.”

A remarkable craftsman, Rich is an accomplished artist, silversmiths, carver, and enameller - his *Hidden Hedgerows* beaker will be displayed alongside an oil painting of the same title, part of an exploration project developing the two mediums in tandem.

Fred has been working with enamel for over 30 years and believes he is still learning. Over time his work becomes more intricate and more demanding, encompassing hundreds of hours, with many months research – for which there are no short cuts.

Fred Rich whose work is highly sought after, has a client base of private collectors across the globe.

For further information please contact:  
Vicky Vincent at Facets PR – 020 7553 3253  
victoria.vincent@facetspr.com

Editors notes

Inspired 3-6 May 2017 at the Goldsmiths' Centre

The Goldsmiths' Centre  
42 Britton Street  
London  
EC1M 5AD

Opening times: Wednesday 3 – Friday 5 May, 10am-5pm  
Saturday 6 May, 10am-4pm

[www.festivalofsilver.co.uk](http://www.festivalofsilver.co.uk)  
[www.fredrichenameldesign.com](http://www.fredrichenameldesign.com)

**The making of Hidden Hedgerows by Fred Rich:**

This intricate, labour-intensive piece began with hours of research, which included an expertly accomplished oil painting. Rich's design was 'drawn' onto the silver beaker using 22 carat gold wire which is painstakingly cut, shaped and soldered by hand. This delivers a depth and vibrancy to the piece, revealed when the ground glass (enamel) becomes translucent during the firing process.

To fire the enamel, once applied in a form that resembles fine wet sand, the beaker is placed in a kiln, with a temperature set to in excess of 900 degrees. Unlike ceramic firing, the silver beaker is placed in the kiln at the heated temperature. This is higher than the melting point of silver, so it has to be carefully watched, and removed as soon as the enamel has melted and fused with the silver. Each firing will take only a couple of minutes. The beaker has to be worked on in sections, and 3 or 4 separate layers of enamel are fired on during the complete process, so this means that, in total, this piece was fired up to 15 times. With each firing the enamel already applied melts again, combining with the newly applied enamel.

Once all layers of enamel have been applied, the enamel surface is quite lumpy, so it needs to be gently ground back using a diamond file. This creates a perfectly smooth, matt, surface. The piece is then fired again to give the enamel its brilliance. With every firing there is the chance that something could go wrong, not the type of work for the faint-hearted!