

Jam Factory

DANIELLE LO

Second Year Jewellery and Metal Studio Associate

One of a kind.

There is cake on the table and wine is flowing. It is Sunday and the Metal Studio is enjoying a relaxing debrief after a rewarding three day masterclass by leading international metal smith Junko Mori. Danielle Lo looks content and happy celebrating with 15 other jewellers. "It's been great to work alongside all of these talented people with such varied practices", smiles Danielle.

Originally from Sydney, Danielle holds a Bachelor of Visual Arts from Sydney College of the Arts and an Advance Diploma in Jewellery and Objects from Enmore Design Centre. The only second year metal studio associate in 2018, Danielle tells me that she is used to being on her own having often arrived at institutions at transitional times, where courses were changed or in the process of being phased out.

"It helps that I'm quite an independent worker already," she says, "but it's really great to have these opportunities, such as this Junko Mori masterclass, at JamFactory. They provide bursts of inspiration and impetus to bring the community together".

One of Danielle's highlights whilst being an Associate was working with ceramicist (and now JamFactory alumnus) Jordan Gower on a collaborative piece for the 2017 Drink Dine Design Award. "Jordan made the vessels, and I made the 90 degree copper fold lids". During her Associateship Danielle has expanded her making repertoire, including more industrial processes working with mass-production moulds and castings. She has enjoyed working as part of a team with other Metal Studio Associates on JamFactory branded product and commissions such as the Brand SA pins.

In general Danielle's practice is quiet, solitary, and measured. It might be her inner baker talking (waking at 4:30am each day, Danielle has become known as the studio's resident baker – making elaborately decadent cakes for birthdays and other



celebrations). For her these early hours are a time to read, and take comfort in the subtle changing light of the early morning hours.

A self-taught enamellist, Danielle uses the emotive power of the colours seen at dawn, in her work. Applying colours in fine detail to her textured silver jewellery, these pieces reflect her intuitive watercolours – moments of light- which hang around her jeweller's bench.

"I dabbled in ceramics and glass when I was at Art school, and really enjoyed the chemistry of temperatures and how to gain different glazes. I suppose that's how I came to doing something similar in application with metal work". Danielle works with a blowtorch, and short bursts in the kilns, using silver for smaller objects and copper for the larger.

Danielle's skill hasn't gone unnoticed at JamFactory. The only person currently using enamel techniques in the studio, she now teaches beginners and intermediate enamelling workshops. "I hadn't really taught before," she says, "so I have enjoyed the aspects of planning and communication that go with it, as well as passing on and even learning new skills along the way".

After JamFactory Danielle envisages she will stay in Adelaide, working on her practice and continuing teaching. "I definitely don't feel the need to rush into more study, I'm quite enjoying being on the other side of it for a change!" she laughs. You can find Danielle's work at Courtesy of the artist in Sydney, Studio Kiss, and at Sarah Rothe, Naomi Murrell and JamFactory in Adelaide.

Words: Lara Merrington, *Assistant Curator, JamFactory*



Danielle Lo, *Enamel Dish*. Photo: Courtesy of the artist