

# Talisman, Tool and Touchstone

**CRAFT+**  
**DESIGN**  
**CANBERRA**

Oliver Smith

21 March - 11 May 2024

This solo exhibition of contemporary metal work was created as part of the practice-based component of Dr. Smith's PhD, drawing on the long tradition of animal symbolism crafted in metal, drawing on archaeology, anthropology, and a particular Nordic worldview and comprises of four suites of work:

- Periapt - A series of pendants exploring the origins of adornment and the zoomorphic root of representation;
- Manifest Destiny - A group of small sculptures expressing ideas contained in the legend of Sigurd the Dragon Slayer;
- Stone, Bone, Iron - A series of small sculptures looking at the Three Age System and material agency in combination with animal symbolism;
- and Elemental Arc and the Vital Vector - A collection of coins.

1. Periapt: Bone, Tooth, Claw, 2017  
.375 gold, horsehair  
pendant forms 10 – 18 mm  
1A. Bone  
1B. Tooth  
1C. Claw  
\$440.00 each

2. Periapt: Bone, Tooth, Claw, 2017  
.925 silver, horsehair  
Pendant forms, 20 – 35 mm  
2A. Bone  
2B. Tooth  
2C. Claw  
\$480.00 each

3. Periapt: Bone, Tooth, Claw, 2017  
Bronze, horsehair  
Pendant forms, 40 – 70 mm  
3A. Bone  
3B. Tooth  
3C. Claw  
\$520.00 each

4. Periapt: Bone, Tooth, Claw, 2017  
Bronze, horsehair  
Pendant forms, 40 – 70 mm  
4A. Bone  
4B. Tooth  
4C. Claw  
\$520.00 each

5. Periapt: Bone, Tooth, Claw, 2017  
.925 silver, horsehair  
Pendant forms, 20 – 35 mm  
5A. Bone  
5B. Tooth  
5C. Claw  
\$480.00 each

6. Periapt: Bone, Tooth, Claw, 2017  
.375 gold, horsehair  
pendant forms 10 – 18 mm  
6A. Bone  
6B. Tooth  
6C. Claw  
\$440.00 each

7. The Chatter of Nuthatches, 2020  
lead, bronze, steel  
44 x 27 x 27 cm  
\*Created in collaboration with Dan Lorrimer  
\$5,200.00

8. Zoomorphic Conduction & Metallic Conveyance, 2020  
.999 gold, electrum (50% .999 gold + 50% .999 silver), .999 silver, coin silver (90% .999 silver + 10% .999 copper)  
diameter approx. 15 mm  
\*Created in collaboration with Emma Fielden

9. Odinic Spur, 2020  
Damascus steel, stainless steel (gilt)  
10 x 11 x 6 cm  
\*Created in collaboration with Adam Fromholtz and Dan Lorrimer  
\$3,300.00

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10. Wild Fabling, 2020

granite, bronze

height 18 cm

\$1,800.00

11. Divine Spark, 2020

cast iron, .900 silver

height 48 cm

\*Created in collaboration with Dan

Lorrimer

\$3,600.00

12. Chimera of Myth, 2020

Bronze

height 20cm

\*Created in collaboration with Dan

Lorrimer

\$4,800.00

13. Rite & Ruin, 2020

cast iron, bronze, brass (gilt)

23 x 15 x 15 cm

\*Created in collaboration with Dan

Lorrimer

\$4,800.00