



## CHARLIE RATCLIFF

Born to an artistic family, Charlie grew up in the wide, open spaces of the Suffolk countryside in England. Her love for working with metals started here at the tender age of ten when she smelted lead in her Mum's saucepans to make soldiers for her little brother's armies.

On realising this love could be translated into the making of jewellery, she sought to gain as much practical experience as possible through a number of courses at the National College of Art & Design, Dublin, from 2011 to 2013, shortly after which she was accepted onto the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland's Jewellery and Goldsmithing Skills & Design Course.

She has since gained workshop experience with Clive Burr, silversmith, in London and Jane Short, enameller, in Brighton. Juxtaposition of colour and texture is often the focal point of Charlie's work and she strives to master any skill which allows her to explore these elements of design.

Her inspiration lies in the natural, the industrial, the abstract and evocative words. She immerses herself in the making process from conception to completion, using centuries old techniques to realise her own contemporary designs. She is motivated by beauty, a function in its own right.

## ARTIST STATEMENT:

**Through the making process I am grounded, elated, fascinated, infuriated and exhilarated. I will continue to challenge myself in the pursuit of my aesthetic.**