

STING OF PASSION SYMPOSIUM

Report by
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Staged in conjunction with the 'Sting of Passion' exhibition on show at Manchester Art Gallery this was a fascinating day-long symposium featuring presentations by ten of the twelve jewellers featured in the exhibition.

Artists had been invited to make work as a direct response to a specific painting from the Manchester Art Gallery's Pre-Raphaelite collection allocated to them by exhibition curator Jo Bloxham. Some presentations focused solely on the specifics of the commission whilst others set the project within a more general overview of their individual practice.

Due to the international make up of the panel it was occasionally difficult to concentrate on strongly accented English (particularly where the paper was read out), but where this was the case there were plenty of interesting images to keep the audience engaged. I'm not sure if there are any plans to publish the papers delivered during the symposium but if there are I for one would appreciate the opportunity to revisit these talks.

The range of delegates and the relatively intimate venue space was conducive to audience input and there were some lively discussions and debate throughout the day.

I was sorry there was not an opportunity to view the exhibition prior to the symposium as I think this would have made it easier to follow the thread of the presentations. In order to fit in a visit to the show I had to leave the symposium before the question and answer session at the end of the day. This was disappointing as I'm sure it would have proved to be a lively affair; as I was leaving an audience member was asking one of the panel of speakers where he obtained the human ribs that he used in his work. Tantalizingly I didn't get a chance to hear his reply.