THE ARTS SOCIETY TURNERS HILL

Lecture 24th November 2026

The Ark, Dunlop Hall 10.45am

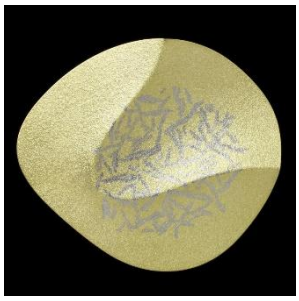
Curating Contemporary Jewellery:

A V&A Curator's Perspective

Jewellery has undergone a dramatic evolution since the 1960s. Whilst major jewellery houses have continued to work principally in traditional materials and forms, innovation has come from individual artist-makers trained at art schools and working independently. Approaching their work largely as a means of self-expression, they have challenged the notion of what jewellery is, through the use of new materials and radically different forms. In this lecture, curator Clare Phillips explores this changing approach to adornment through the lens of the V&A's jewellery collection, with which she has worked for thirty years.



Cornflower ring. Nylon filament, designed and made by Nora Fok, England 2007.



Brooch. Gold and platinum, designed and made by Jaqueline Mina England 2007

Images courtesy of the Victoria and Albert Museum

Speaker: Clare Phillips



Clare Phillips was a curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum from 1989 to 2025. As a jewellery historian, she was a key part of the small team dedicated to the V&A's jewellery collection for three and a half decades. She has written extensively on jewellery. In addition to her work with the V&A's permanent collection, she has been responsible for jewellery content within major V&A exhibitions.