

# FELT & MIXED MEDIA

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## INGEBORG VANDAMME

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INGEBORG VANDAMME WORKS AND LIVES IN AMSTERDAM, WHERE SHE STUDIED JEWELLERY DESIGN AT THE GERRIT RIETVELD ACADEMY. FOR MANY YEARS, HER WORK HAS BEEN EXHIBITED IN GALLERIES IN THE NETHERLANDS AND ABROAD. SHE TEACHES JEWELLERY DESIGN AT SEVERAL ART SCHOOLS.





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In her work, the nurturing of memories is a recurring theme. Natural processes are an inspiration, with attention paid to imperfection and impermanence. She expresses this in her work by combining diverse materials like metal, paper, textile and objects from nature. The thematic element is emphasised by the use of these contrasting materials. Working this way, not only diary fragments, poems, letters and maps but also shells and fossils are fashioned into cherished treasures.

Ingeborg likes to use and tell little stories with her jewellery, inspired by history, folklore and tradition. There are necklaces with hidden messages: these necklaces can be worn in two ways, each showing different colours and textile prints, and only one of the messages will be visible at a time. The stories are an essential part of her work, with a mix of old and new traditions and techniques.

The materials used for these works are anodised aluminium and textiles such as felt, thread and cord. The relative lightness of aluminium gives her the possibility of making large pendants and brooches which are still comfortable to wear. Besides jewellery-making techniques, she uses textile techniques by sewing the metal and textile parts together.

#### NECKLACE: DAY AND NIGHT

The inspiration for making this necklace is an old story of people living long ago on the islands of the Pacific Ocean, where the days were too short and the nights too long for the islanders to get anything accomplished. There is a legend of Maui (son of God) who finds a way to make the sun travel more slowly across the sky. This legend is a misty memory of a time when the Polynesian people experienced the short days of the extreme north or south.

This necklace has two sides - a day and a night - and you can turn the necklace around and choose which side you want to wear. One side is made in various shades of blue felt, whereas the reverse features dark felt colours of greys and black.

#### SHELL BROOCHES

These jewellery pieces are brooches of aluminium or brass and felt containing shells. For as long as she can remember, Ingeborg has spent her long summer holidays in the Netherlands, near the sea, and has collected shells since her childhood. Once in a while, these shells end up in brooches and necklaces.

Her collection includes shells with damaged surfaces, with holes and traces made by little animals. Living creatures built a life on the

surface of the shells and became fossils over many years. It's not the polished surfaces but rather the traces of past lives that are the inspiration for making this jewellery.

Natural processes are an inspiration, with attention to imperfection and impermanence. Seemingly minor materials such as weathered wood and damaged shells are revaluated when they are given a new life, and a new meaning is incorporated into each piece of jewellery.

#### CONTACT DETAILS

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#### IMAGES

Necklace Day and Night':  
Page 22, Front | 2, Back | 3, 4, Detail  
Photo: Dick Hollander . Anodised aluminium, silver, felt, foam, cord.

5, Red Coral Necklace: red coral, paper, paraffin, felt. Photo: Artist

6, Shell Brooch 01: anodised aluminium, shell, rubber, felt, thread. Photo: Artist

7, Shell Brooch 02: etched brass, shell, felt, thread. Photo: Artist