RACHAEL COLLEY

Rachael is an artist and doctorial researcher at Loughborough University in the UK. She thinks through materials and making, creating jewellery, objects and sculpture which challenge our collective connections with food and communicate aspects of her lived experience of the autoimmune disease systemic sclerosis (SSc). Exploring materiality and sustainable design approaches, she applies a range of denaturing and hardening techniques to organic food waste, referencing the internal atrophy of skins and connective tissues caused by SSc.

Employment

2017 – 2026 Senior lecturer, Sheffield Hallam University
2013 – 2017 Lecturer, School of Jewellery, Birmingham City University
2011 – 2013 Metalwork lecturer, Nottingham Trent University

Education

2024 – 2031 Scholarship student and Doctoral Researcher, Loughborough University
2013 Fellow Higher Education Academy, Advance HE
2012 PGcert in Higher Education, Nottingham Trent University
2008 - 2010 MA Goldsmithing, Silversmithing, Metalwork and Jewellery, Royal College of Art
2004 - 2007 BA (Hons) Jewellery and Silversmithing, Loughborough University

Awards

2024 Heritage Crafts and QEST Sustainability Award for innovation
2024 Feeney Fellow, John Feeney Trust, Birmingham, UK
2022 Developing Your Creative Practice, Arts Council England funding, UK
2021 QEST Howdens Scholarship, Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust, UK
2021 Career Catalyst Grant, Goldsmiths' Centre, London, UK
2021 Platform 21, Freelands Artist Programme, Site Gallery, Sheffield, UK
2020 Eco Sight, Award in the category of objects, Amber Trip XVII, Vilnius, Lithuania
2020 Preziosa Young, Le Arti Orafe, Florence, Italy
2019 Grand Prize, Itami City Museum of Art, History and Culture, Japan
2017 Koyosha Award for promising talent, Itami City Museum of Art, History and Culture, Japan

Selected exhibitions (from 2021 – present)

2026 *Di-alogue: Technologies for thinking/making*, Curate Space, Radiant Pavillion, Melbourne, AUS
2026 *City of Suffragettes*, ACJ, Manchester Craft and Design Centre, Manchester, UK
2026 *ROJW Romanian Jewellery Week* with Precious Collective, Romania
2026 *The Culture of Cutlery*, Goldsmiths' Centre, London, UK
2026 *Nest*, Unit Twelve Gallery, Stafford, UK
2026 *The Fragile Body*, Donner Gallery, Munich, Germany
2026 EVERY BODY 34th International Jewellery Competition, Legnica Jewellery Festival SILVER, Poland
2025 *Assisitive Objects*, Walsall Leather Museum, UK
2025 *Itami International Jewellery Exhibition*, Itami City Museum of Art, History and Culture, Japan
2025 *Restless Matter*, Puyuan Contemporary Jewellery Biennale, JCC Centre, Puyuan, China
2025 *Harmony and Coexistence,* Beijing International Jewelry Art Exhibition, 18 October 2025 - 30 May 2026, Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology, Beijing, China
2025 *Turning Point*, Gdańsk Jewellery Week, AMBERIF International Fair of Amber and Jewellery, 4–6 September, Poland

2025 *Chopinllery*, Ornamentum Humanum and Prince of the Romantics International Art Project, The Eugeniusz Geppert Academy Of Fine Arts, Wroclaw, Poland
2025 *Jewellery Now: The Curators' Edit*, Ruthin Craft Gallery, UK
2025 *Chaos and Control*, Precious Collective, Germany and Spain
2025 *Schmuck Munchen*, Internationalle Handwerkmesse, Munich, Germany
2025 *Fertile Ground*, Donner Gallery, Munich, Germany
2024-25 *I Paint Flowers so they will not Die*, Galleria Carlo Lucidi + Santa Rita da Cascia in Campitelli, Rome, Italy
2024 *Romanian Jewellery Week*, Assamblage National Jewelry Association, 5th Edition from 2 – 6 October at the National Library of Romania, exhibiting with Precious Collective, Bucharest, Romania
2024 *Personal Narrative Spaces*, Inflow: Contemporary Jewelry Exhibition and Conference, 30 August – 11 October showing in the Art Mill, Old Art Colony Szentendre and Hybridart Space Gallery, Budapest, Hungary
2024 *Don't Play With Your Food*, Sunny Bank Mills, Leeds UK
2024 *Show Your Metal*, Millenium Gallery, Sheffield Museums Trust, Sheffield, UK
2024 *Sensations*, Precious Collective, Slovenian Jewellery Week 9 -20 May, Center Rog, Slovenia
2024 *Flora, Fauna & Feasting: Rockingham Pottery Meets Contemporary Craft,* Wentworth Woodhouse, Wentworth, UK
2024 *No Laughing Matter,* Ferrous Festival, Hereford and School of Jewellery, Birmingham, UK
2024 *The Space Between,* Precious Collective, Munich Jewellery Week, Germany; Ferrous Festival, Hereford, UK; Cagnes-Sur-Mer jewellery week, France
2024 *Past, Present, Future*, Precious Collective, Bury Art Museum and Sculpture Centre, UK
2023 *Radical Jewelry Makeover*, BarioNeal, New York Jewelry Week, New York, USA
2023 *Heirlooms of the Future II,* Mobilia Gallery, Massachusetts, USA
2023-25 *Swords into Ploughshares: Knives into Jewels*, national touring exhibition: Devon, Birmingham, Redcar, UK
2023 *Watashi wo Yosoou - Beyond the Jewellery,* Itami City Museum of Art, History and Culture, Japan
2023 *In the Same Breath,* Freelands Foundation, London, UK
2023 *Collect*, Crafts Council, Somerset House, London, UK
2022 *Itami International Craft Exhibition*, The Museum of Arts and Crafts, Itami, Japan
2022 *Craft Sustained*, The Hub, Sleaford, UK
2022 *New Gestures*, Site Gallery, Sheffield, UK
2022 *LEATHER : METAL : CLOTH The Art of the Exceptional: A Jubilee Celebration of Makers,* Fortnum & Mason, London, UK
2022 - 23 *Meanings and Messages*, Association for Contemporary Jewellery 25 year Anniversary national touring exhibition, Gravesham, Exeter, Birmingham, Swansea, London and Cirencester, UK
2022 *Craft of Convalescence*, New Brewery Arts, Cirencester, UK
2022 *Double Yellow Line,* 9 March Project, Chelyabinsk Museum of Arts, Chelyabinsk, Russia and Museum of Stone-Cutting and Jewelry Art, Yekaterinburg, Russia
2022 *Soft Loop*, Platform 21 group exhibition, Freelands Artist Programme, Site Gallery, Sheffield, UK
2021-2022 *We Are Commoners: Creative Acts of Commoning*, Craftspace, touring exhibition, UK
2021-2022 *European Prize for Applied Arts*, BeCraft Gallery, Mons, Belgium
2021 *Upended Lives: Jewelry in the Age of Covid*, Mobilia Gallery, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
2021 *Disobedient*, Ruup and Form Gallery, London Craft Week, 14 Cavendish, London, UK
2021 *The Handmade's Table*, Ruup and Form Gallery, London Design Festival, London, UK
2021 *Precious Things in Times of Uncertainly*, Radiant Pavilion biennial, Melbourne, Australia
2021 *Body Positive*, TempContemp, Radiant Pavilion biennial, Melbourne, Australia
2021 *FOOD*, Bury Art Museum and Sculpture Centre, Bury, UK
2020-2021 *Preziosa Young*, Munich, Germany; Florence, Italy; Barcelona, Spain