



Nanna Melland

Nanna Melland's jewellery questions the principles of decoration, pushing the boundary between ornamentation and art object. Working with corporeal elements such as a pig's heart and fingernails, body parts normally considered grotesque or unsightly, Melland creates precious objects of beauty addressing the sensitive subject of mortality.

For *Heart Charm*, 2000, Melland replaces the traditional polished metal heart of a charm bracelet with a visceral and fleshy pig's organ of the same name. The heart of a pig, chosen specifically for its likeness to a human heart, represents for Melland the most important life-giving part of the body. By replacing the heart, a symbol of love, with the literal organ, Melland dramatically alters the function of the bracelet and forces her viewer to confront the true meaning behind this symbol. This piece led to a series of work using pig's hearts. For her *Fragments of Life* brooches and pendants, 2003-2004, Melland cast the inside cavities of a pig's heart and placed the fragments within glass spheres that can be worn. These works further question the conventional heart form by replacing it with the innermost spaces of the internal organ.

"By bringing this hidden reality out into the light, the inner spaces of the heart, the invisible inner reality of us all which is so fantastic and fragile, I hope to make people contemplate what is difficult and unknown. To let them wonder and feel gratitude for their life, whatever it may look like."

