



## Press release

### **Bling**

#### **Jewellery Stories from the East End**

26 June – 14 November

Bling, a new exhibition opening at the V&A Museum of Childhood, takes a closer look at the diversity of jewellery in east London, with emphasis on how the ornaments we use to decorate our bodies often have great personal and cultural significance.

#### **Shaun Leane will open Bling, which will feature some of his work, at the private view on Wednesday 23 June (18.30-20.30)**

The exhibition explores some of the diverse jewellery stories of people from the East End of London. A collaborative project with London College of Fashion combining the work of local schoolchildren, Foundation Diploma students and contemporary jewellers with an East End link.

Every piece of jewellery tells a particular story and what we value is highly subjective. Gold and diamonds make expensive statements about material value whereas an inexpensive trinket might have some profound sentimental value associated with a place, a person or a time in our life.

Treasured gifts may tell a story of our attachment to the giver. Jewellery of the deceased might be worn in memory of someone who is no longer alive. Fashion jewellery says something about style and identity.

Jewellery by contemporary designers Oona Ball, Camilla David, Tatty Devine, Louise Evans, Catriona Faulkner, Jo Hayes-Ward, Shaun Leane, Maya and Linnie Mclarty will be on display, as well as work by students from London College of Fashion. Pieces produced by local primary school pupils from Old Palace Primary School, Kingsmead Primary School and Hackney Free & Parochial Secondary School will also feature.

Supported by The Wates Foundation

**Note to Editors**

For further information and/or images, please contact Joanna Bolitho or Kate Harmer on 020 8983 5219/5227; j.bolitho@vam.ac.uk, k.harmer@vam.ac.uk

Shaun Leane has won Jewellery Designer of the Year three times - in 2004, 2005 and 2009. He has worked on collections with both Alexander McQueen and Givenchy to name just two collaborations. He has had work in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London's Natural History Museum and New York's Metropolitan Museum.

Shaun's career began on a Youth Training Scheme for jewellery design at Kingsway Princeton College of Further Education in Clerkenwell. His potential was recognised by his tutors and he was placed with English Traditional Jewellery, in Hatton Garden, aged 16. During a thirteen year period he was immersed in the craft of goldsmithing, restoring antique jewellery and creating new pieces of fine jewellery, utilising gold and precious stones. Shaun was able to return to college, while at English Traditional Jewellers, to what is now the London Met where he studied fine jewellery design and gained formal qualifications. Shaun met Alexander McQueen after 10 years working as a traditional goldsmith and was asked to make jewellery for his catwalk show. Shaun has exhibited alongside Alexander McQueen, John Galliano and Vivienne Westwood amongst others.

V&A Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA

Admission free. Open daily: 10.00 – 17.45, last admission 17.30

Nearest tube: Bethnal Green. 24 hour information: 020 8983 5235 Switchboard: 020 8983 5200 [www.museumofchildhood.org.uk](http://www.museumofchildhood.org.uk)