

# Laura Baxter



## how I make my work

I keep a sketchbook and draw regularly. In the studio I surround myself with my sketches and collections of found objects, plant specimens, seeds and dried flowers that I have found on walks, gathered from the roadside or picked from my garden. These are always the starting points for new work.

I love to experiment in paper and metal. I often make paper models before I move designs into metal. Sometimes I make pieces in copper or gilding metal before they are transferred into precious metal. I hand make all my own work from metal sheet and wire using traditional silversmithing techniques including piercing, shaping, raising, die-pressing, soldering and forging techniques. Detail is very important to me. I hand make all my own jewellery fasteners and findings including brooch pins and catches so they add beautiful finishing touches to my work.

Surface texture and finishes are applied using roll-printing, punches and oxidising. My work has become well-known and widely recognized for its black oxidised silver finish. Small silverware is hand raised and planished. Each piece of my jewellery is unique and collectable. In addition to hallmarking my work I mark each piece with an issue number, similar to that of an artist's print.