

Sim Luttin has always found her inspiration in nature, objects of the everyday, and the work of the artists whose work she admires. Luttin's pieces in the exhibition *The Temporary Nature of Things* at Pieces of Eight Gallery represents a snapshot of the body of work she created while working on an MFA degree at Indiana University in the USA. Her distinctive aesthetic expresses her love of sterling silver and oxidized sterling silver, with the carefully considered additions of other materials, such as graphite, porcelain, hematite, garnet and plastic plant parts.

There is a sense of calm and sophistication in her work. Luttin's *Paper Cups* are the only hollowware objects in the exhibition but they can easily be identified with Luttin's jewellery because of the delicacy of the forms, the consideration to detail, and her signature silver and black color scheme. Luttin's necklace *The Small Things* is an interpretation of the everyday in nature. It is quiet, understated, and easily overlooked. The dandelion pendant *Just Dandy* represents promises of hope, flight and fancy. In its simplest form, it's about casting a wish off into the winds. The delicate necklace *Forest Whispers* invites close inspection of the beautiful roller printed plant images inspired by observations Luttin made while wandering through a forest dwelling in Maine.

For her thesis project at IU, Luttin was inspired to create a piece a day for one year. Through her research, she was motivated by Twyla Tharp's work ethic outlined in her book "The Creative Habit", and the film titled "The Five Obstructions" by Danish director Lars Von Trier. Similarly to the parameters set forth in the movie, Luttin challenged her self-created paradigms through physically making, therefore recording her daily experience and environment, which allowed her to reflect on the on aspects of the human condition. Each day she transformed materials into works that are creative, poetic and extremely sensitive. Accompanying each of the pieces are small books that hold a watercolor or sketch and a Haiku that captured some glimpse or memory of that particular day. The body of work produced was a personal expression and admission that she lived a life with constant nostalgia and melancholy. As observers, it was invigorating to watch Luttin as she created her small wonders that delved into nuances of the everyday and that are conceptually engaging and beautiful. The thesis exhibition *The Temporary Nature of Things*, totaling 366 pieces, made an extensive installation out of refined miniature jewelry and objects. The selected works for the exhibition at Piece of Eight give a glimpse of the entire project and the rich picture assembled through the talent of Luttin.

Sim Luttin has the inspiration, creativity, and intelligence to make work that will excite collectors and keep pace with the creative dynamics in the art world. Her work will quickly establish herself as a leader in contemporary art jewellery and metalsmithing field as she continues to question, challenge and seek the unexpected.

Randy Long and Nicole Jacquard, Aug 2008