

# Ute Eitzenhöfer Schmuck Jewellery

By Cornelia Holzach, Wilhelm Lindemann, Marjan Unger.  
Arnoldsche. ISBN 978-3-89790-406-4

Reviewed by Rebecca Skeels

**The newly arrived shrink-wrapped book with its starkly designed hardback white cover gave nothing away regarding its contents of photos and text within.**

As a fan of books, especially about jewellery and even more so those with lots of images, it is nice to peel off the plastic film and be the first to open and flick through the pages. From initially flicking through this book, I realised it was not going to take me long to read. The quality of the paper and images and print is great, which is always important and something that helps the reader focus on the subject in hand. The book had many images with the majority positioned one per page, using about a quarter of the space and surrounded by a clear white background. The rest of the images show pieces of jewellery being worn.

The text is broken into three essays by three different authors, each one printed in German followed by the English translation. A fourth author, Michael Müller, uses photographed portraits to express his thoughts and views. There is no introduction or conclusion to accompany the sections, just the contents, description of the objects, biographies and so on, located at the front and back of the book.

Cornelia Holzach uses a walk through a garden to give a narrative to Ute Eitzenhöfer's jewellery, moving in a particular direction looking at the work in an order as if exhibited, while describing and questioning each piece.

Something not really under control of the author of this first essay, but well worth mentioning, was the annoyance of having to go to the back of the book to



cross-reference the list of objects with what was being discussed in the text.

The second essay is by Wilhelm Lindemann and entitled 'A Summon to Think for Yourself'. It smoothly introduces the reader to Ute Eitzenhöfer, providing views of what she was trying to achieve, what she did and how she thought. A lot was covered in this essay and I liked the way in which it made me question my own work, my way of working and development, and reflect on what Ute Eitzenhöfer was trying to achieve in her work.

'Elegant, but also Malicious' by Marjan Unger starts in a similar way to Lindemann's essay, telling us about Ute Eitzenhöfer and her jewellery, the use of stones and what she feels was trying to be achieved or communicated. Unger also touches on the great craftsmanship of Eitzenhöfer and the processes she uses for development, such as reading, researching and exploring. Unger is the only author that discusses colour, which is surprising due to the nature of the work and materials, and how they need to work together.

At the time of writing, I like the third essay the most. The beauty of the three essays is that so thought provoking were they that on another day I may like another one more. The book made me question pathways jewellers take and the context they fit their work and themselves into, the changes they make along the way and how they move forward.

Ute Eitzenhofer, *Schnorkel 3*,  
*Squiggle 3 Brooches 2013*,  
plastic (from packaging),  
Photo: Michael Muller

