



# THE FOLDING STUFF

*For Belgian jewellery designer Tine De Ruysser, making wearable art is all about exploring contemporary life in all its different shapes, says Anna Battista*

'Creating contemporary jewellery is a bit like making a wearable work of art. It's vitally important for a piece to be based on an interesting concept and to be beautiful and sculptural – but also functional and practical.' So says Belgian jewellery designer Tine De Ruysser. A graduate of Antwerp's Royal Academy of Fine Art, De Ruysser lives in London, where she is currently finishing a PhD at the Royal College of Art. Her early designs, inspired by Dutch artist Neil Linssen, were based on folding metallic materials and wearable origami pieces such as copper and polyester capes and bracelets that could be turned into bags.

'Folding is a surprising technique,' she says, 'because it allows you to take a flat sheet of material and transform it in a three-dimensional way, making it look more interesting and

endowing it with a sort of extra flexibility and movement.'

More recently, cold hard money became her inspiration in a project originally embarked upon for a Bank of America exhibition. 'I originally decided to use dollars to make a comment on our times,' she explains. 'But then I realised there were more issues to investigate through such pieces – like financial security – so I started creating necklaces, bracelets and brooches using banknotes from different continents.'

Right now De Ruysser

is focusing on new pieces to showcase at the 'Collect 2010' exhibition, opening in May at London's Saatchi Gallery.

'I'll be presenting plywood and textile objects that incorporate my folding techniques,' she says. 'I feel honoured to see my work featured in art galleries and exhibitions – it's what I always dreamt of doing one day.'

[www.tinederuysser.com](http://www.tinederuysser.com)