

AMULATA

Works by Christina Khumari

Following on an extensive period of travel and research in 2007, Christina Khumari has set up her most recent studio and is deep in the process of creating a new body of work, a collection called “Amulata”.

Amulets and talismans, objects that carry more than their obvious material presence...

They can be beautiful, strange, challenging and mysterious, seemingly ordinary but with hidden spaces and meanings. Some, like jewellery, are culturally accepted objects that have everyday meaning, almost overlooked in their familiarity. Sometimes a simple mark can carry a heavy load or lighten a burdensome one.

Combining her various skills in gold smithing, painting and sculpture, Khumari is drawing for the first phase of this new direction on the influences imbibed through travels in Morocco and Spain. Berber symbols that are commonly woven into rugs, tattooed on the faces of women and used in everyday life can be harbingers of good luck, protection from the evil eye, charms for a happy marriage etc. These symbols form the jumping off point for Khumari’s new collection. Some pieces will be wearable, some quite large and seem like sculpture, some will have hidden spaces and some will be perfect for the wearer to hide secretly in a pocket.

Objects are often imbued with meaning, sometimes practical, sometimes developed through a direct connection with the heart of the wearer. Often these meanings are attained by personal use after the object is made and sometimes they can be culturally agreed upon. Some symbols, like the spiral, seem to have a universal presence.

Sometimes a mystery is as good a place as any for magic to happen...
