Collect 2006 [Alternatives Gallery contemporary jewellery exhibition catalogue]

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Additional Information:

- This is an edited version of a catalogue produced by Alternatives Gallery, Rome, Italy. The catalogue was produced to showcase the work of 15 artists specialising in contemporary jewellery represented by Alternatives Gallery at Collect 2006, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK, 9-13 February 2006. Collect 2006 was an international art fair for contemporary objects run by the British Crafts Council. Roberta Bernabei was one of the represented artists. This catalogue appears here with the permission of the gallery.

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Alternatives Gallery specializes in contemporary jewellery and is dedicated to the promotion of both newcomers and internationally established artists from all over the world. The search for new types of materials and innovative techniques come together in contemporary jewellery expressing the end result of this research. The gallery space, located in the heart of Rome, has been conceived to bring together spectator and the finished piece. Along with 5-6 solo and group exhibitions each year, Alternatives hosts 50-60 designers on a permanent basis.

The director of the gallery, Rita Marcangelo, believes that jewellery is a means of communication. It is with this concept in mind that she has been organizing a series of events each year, since the gallery first opened in 1997, to promote and give value to a new way of interpreting personal adornment.
Roberta Bernabei was born in Italy in 1968 and now lives and works in the UK. She studied at the Istituto Statale d’Arte Sambonpiero and later graduated in sculpture at the Accademia di Belle Arti Perugia, Italy. She then moved on to the Fachhochschule für Gestaltung, Schwäbisch-Gmünd, Germany, where she obtained an MA in applied art and jewellery at Sheffield Hallam University, UK. She has obtained the following awards and grants: Premio Moreno Ballerini Sambonpiero, I Balli, Annapa - A Memoria del Cu­ ratorio Torre del Greco Italy - EC Scholarship - Armors and Jewels Award, Sheffield, UK. Pangolin Editions casting prize - Travel Grant, the Association for Contemporary Jewellery UK. She has been Lecturer at the Art Osk Grand Forest, Visiting Lecturer, Metalsmithing and Jewellery at Sheffield Hallam University, Visiting Lecturer, Metalwork and Jewellery at De Montfort University, Leicester, and is currently Lecturer in Silversmithing and Jewellery at Loughborough University. Upon observing Roberto Bernabei’s jewellery, one is immediately aware of the fact that its ‘con­ tent’ go beyond mere adorn­ ment: space, absence, presence, the human body, all key words in Bernabei’s art. The concept of making space tangible has been one of her main areas of research since the year 2000. This theory has developed into a concept of space surrounding the body. In more recent times it has further evolved and directed Bernabei to study the concept of space in other cultures and to broaden her definition of space.
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