

Wallpaper*

OCTOBER 12, 2020

Under the loupe: MJ Tyson reinterprets the role of jewellery

The Wallpaper 'Under the loupe' gallery puts jewellery under the magnifying glass – check here for weekly selections and reflections from our editors*

By Hannah Silver



Sienna Patti Contemporary

12 October

Artist MJ Tyson's exhibition, *Inheritance*, at the Sienna Patti Contemporary gallery in Massachusetts explores the complex role jewellery can play in our lives. By melting and moulding collections of metal objects and pre-owned jewellery into sculptures, she reduces a life lived into something, poignantly, other. 'I think a lot about the life of jewellery off the body,' Tyson says. 'We know what jewelry does when it's presented, but what is its role when no one is looking? Many of us are feeling tucked away in the dark. I'm relating more than ever to the jewellery in my pieces; intertwined with the whole and isolated for safekeeping.'

<https://www.wallpaper.com/gallery/watches-and-jewellery/under-the-loupe-gallery-2020>

By melting and casting the pieces she collects in her New Jersey studio, she bestows new life on to sentimental pieces. 'What we have inherited is ours to reshape,' she adds. In a time when human connection is limited, it couldn't be more prescient. 'Her work establishes this in multiple ways: between the artist and the viewer, between the wearer and the artist,' says Sienna Patti. 'Many of our possessions outlast us by decades if not centuries – we know this is especially relevant to understanding the history of jewellery – we pass them on, we mark occasions, we hold them in our hand and pray, wear them on our bodies and dance. They mark time and MJ torques this sentiment into sediment.' The exhibition runs until October 19th.