

CAIRNS ART GALLERY

18 SEP –
22 NOV 2026

JamFactory ICON **JULIE BLYFIELD** **CHASING A PASSION**

ARTWORK LABELS

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THE VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFT STRATEGY



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JamFactory ICON, Julie Blyfield: Chasing a Passion is a JamFactory touring exhibition

Viridescent vessel #1, 2024

oxidised copper, wax

finishing texture by Greta Ferguson

Viridescent Vessel #2, 2024

oxidised copper, wax, patinated bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, wax

hand-raised by Greta Ferguson

Butterfly ring, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, bi-metal: 22-carat gold, sterling silver, wax

Viridescent neckpiece #1, 2024

patinated bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, oxidised sterling silver, coated cable, wax

The ancient growth of the Daintree Rainforest provided fertile inspiration for Julie Blyfield in the creation of her *Viridescent* series of works. Astonished by the breathtakingly thick wall of forest, dense canopy and intermingling vines that enveloped her, the artist was moved to capture the sensory experience of the lush landscape of the tropical rainforest. The fleshy leaves and fluid cable lines of the neckpieces make explicit the rampant growth of the vines threading through the rainforest, while the densely layered leaves of the wall pieces echo Blyfield's memory of an almost stifling overhead canopy.

The overwhelming enormity of the rainforest impelled Blyfield to work to a larger scale than previously attempted, the artist collaborating with the South Australian silversmith Greta Ferguson in the fabrication of several raised vessels. The intense green of the leaves in the works was achieved with the assistance of South Australian sculptor Silvio Apponyi, who Blyfield approached for assistance with refining the metal-patination process, whereby copper nitrate was used to transform bi-metal into a Verdigris green colour.

Corallium object #1, 2024

oxidised copper, sterling silver, brass, wax
base form hand-raised by Greta Ferguson

Corallium object #2, 2024

oxidised copper, sterling silver, brass, wax
base form hand-raised by Greta Ferguson

Corallium object #3, 2024

oxidised copper, sterling silver, brass, wax
base form hand-raised by Greta Ferguson

Corallium object #4

2024

sterling silver

Corallium object #5

2024

sterling silver

Shell neckpiece, 2022

sterling silver

Corallium brooch # 9, 2024

sterling silver

Corallium brooch #4, 2024

sterling silver

Corallium brooch # 12, 2024

sterling silver

Corallium neckpiece #8, 2024

24-carat gold plate sterling silver, coated cable

Corallium brooch # 8, 2024

sterling silver

Corallium brooch # 19, 2024

sterling silver

Corallium neckpiece #4, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, wax

Frag brooch #1, 2024

oxidised bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, enamel paint, wax

Frag brooch #2, 2024

oxidised bi-metal: copper, sterling silver,
enamel paint, wax

Frag brooch #3, 2024

oxidised bi-metal: copper, sterling silver,
enamel paint, wax

Frag brooch #4, 2024

oxidised bi-metal: copper, sterling silver enamel paint, wax

Corallium neckpiece #2, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, enamel paint, wax

Faced with the growing threat to coral in warming oceans due to climate change, researchers are now adopting innovative approaches in their attempts to propagate corals with the ability to survive in warmer and more acidic marine environments. The *Frag brooch* series was inspired by a method of propagation witnessed by Julie Blyfield while snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef, whereby coral fragments are attached to and grown on large steel grid-like structures. As the only works in the exhibition featuring indicators of human intervention, these pieces are significant in their acknowledgement of the role of researchers in coral-regeneration efforts and are a symbol of hope for the repair of existing damage to the reef.

Corallium necklace #7, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, paint, coated cable, wax

Corallium necklace #6, 2024

24-carat gold plate sterling silver

Corallium brooch #14, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, wax

Corallium brooch # 7, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, wax

Corallium necklace #3, 2024

patinated bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, oxidised sterling silver, wax

Corallium brooch #6, 2024

patinated bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, wax
patination by Silvio Apponyi

Corallium necklace #1, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, enamel paint, wax

Corallium brooch # 3, 2024

sterling silver

Corallium brooch #10, 2024

24-carat gold plate sterling silver

Corallium brooch #15, 2024

24-carat gold plate sterling silver

Corallium brooch #16, 2024

24-carat gold plate sterling silver

Stick necklace, 2020

oxidised sterling silver, cable, wax

Toil necklace, 2018

oxidised bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, coated-steel cable,
18-carat gold, wax

Corallium brooch # 2, 2024

sterling silver

Viridescent neckpiece #2, 2024

patinated bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, oxidised sterling silver, coated cable, wax

Hibiscus flower brooch #2, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, enamel paint, wax

Hibiscus flower brooch #4, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, enamel paint, wax

Washed by the sea brooch #1, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, enamel paint, wax

Washed by the sea brooch #2, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, enamel paint, wax

Washed by the sea brooch #3, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, enamel paint, wax

Viridescent brooch #1, 2024

patinated bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, wax

Corallium brooch # 5, 2024

24-carat gold plate sterling silver

Corallium pendant # 1, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, linen thread, wax

Corallium pendant #2, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, linen thread, wax

Corallium pendant #3, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, linen thread, wax

Corallium pendant #4, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, linen thread, wax

Corallium pendant # 5, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, linen thread, wax

Marine brooch #1, 2022

sterling silver

Marine brooch #2, 2022

sterling silver

Corallium necklace #5, 2024
sterling silver, coated cable

Corallium brooch #11, 2024
sterling silver

Corallium brooch # 17, 2024
patinated bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, wax
patination by Silvio Apponyi

Hibiscus flower brooch #1, 2024
oxidised sterling silver, enamel paint, wax

Hibiscus flower brooch #3, 2024
oxidised sterling silver, enamel paint, wax

Corallium brooch # 18, 2024
sterling silver

hand-raised bi-metal: copper, sterling silver,
oxidised sterling silver, cable, wax

Corallium brooch #1, 2024
oxidised sterling silver, wax

Sand spiral brooch #1, 2024
patinated bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, wax
patination by Silvio Apponyi

Sand spiral brooch #2, 2024
patinated bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, wax
patination by Silvio Apponyi

Sand spiral brooch #3, 2024
patinated bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, wax
patination by Silvio Apponyi

Viridescent wall piece #1, 2024

patinated bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, wax
patination by Silvio Apponyi

Viridescent wall piece #2, 2024

patinated bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, wax
patination by Silvio Apponyi

Viridescent wall piece #3, 2024

patinated bi-metal: copper, sterling silver, wax
patination by Silvio Apponyi

Butterfly brooch #1, 2024

24-carat gold plate sterling silver

Butterfly brooch #2, 2024

24-carat gold plate sterling silver

Butterfly brooch #3, 2024

24-carat gold plate sterling silver

Butterfly brooch #4, 2024

oxidised bi-metal: 22-carat gold, sterling silver, wax

Butterfly brooch #5, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, wax

Butterfly brooch #6, 2024

oxidised sterling silver, wax

Previously a living organism, coral is the skeletal remains of tiny plant-like marine invertebrates, called coral polyps. Coral is formed when the polyps extract calcium from seawater and secrete calcium carbonate to form a hard, branching structure. Coral has a long lifespan and is incredibly slow-growing, with some species growing as little as a single millimetre per year. Over many generations, successive colonies of coral polyps build up large underwater reef structures, these providing a complex and varied habitat for a wide range of fish, sea turtles and other marine life.

Coral bleaching is perhaps the most significant threat to coral and is directly caused by the effects of climate change. In warmer ocean temperatures, corals expel the algae (zooxanthellae) living in their tissues – it's the algae that gives them their bright colours – causing the coral to turn white. While this does not kill corals, bleaching removes their major food source and makes them more vulnerable to disease, in turn threatening the stability of the entire reef ecosystem.

The Great Barrier Reef has experienced significant coral bleaching events in the last decade, with the recent temperature data from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration indicating that 80 per cent of the reef was subjected to bleaching-level heat stress in 2024. While the threat to the Great Barrier Reef has reached critical levels, scientists are working hard to investigate ways of preserving and restoring the reef and developing heat-resistant corals and spawning corals in damaged areas to assist in regeneration efforts.

The works in this exhibition were crafted over two years and this display provides an insight into the considerable breadth of detailed experimentation, preparation and planning invested by Julie Blyfield in her creative practice. It includes supporting material such as sketchbooks, paper models and maquettes, as well as a selection of the artist's tools, such as a chasing hammer, chasing tools and various chasing and repoussé samples. The artist's personal collection of past exhibition catalogues, newspaper reviews and historical postcards acknowledges the way in which her thoughts, ideas and concepts have evolved across the years of her practice.