

PRESS RELEASE**26 April 2004****Royal College of Art student scoops World Gold Council Award**

- **Student designs gold jewellery impossible to make by hand**

David Goodwin, a graduating student on the Goldsmithing, Silversmithing, Metalwork and Jewellery (GSM&J) MA course at the Royal College of Art is breaking new ground in gold jewellery design. David's two years of research has been aided by a £6,000 Grima Award from the World Gold Council, which will help him complete his final collection.

Primarily working with rings, David's designs incorporate spheres, cushions, mushroom clouds and oval shapes which will be made from gold mesh. Using cutting edge technology to explore the possibilities of jewellery within 3D design, the rings would be impossible to fabricate by hand. David sketches an initial idea on paper, then translates it into a 3D model. The structures are designed in particular to work with a rapid prototyping machine, which allows David to then work with a physical 3D object. Initially deterred by many casting companies who said it couldn't be done, David found one company, Weston-Beamor based in Birmingham, who were willing to turn David's ideas into reality.

Professor David Watkins, Head of GSM&J Department at the RCA, said: "With his fascinating new designs, David is exploring the limits of both rapid prototyping and contemporary casting technologies."

David has chosen to work with gold because of its malleability, strength and retention of colour. Due to the nature of the design, the rings are also incredibly light to wear.

Philip Olden, managing director, jewellery at the World Gold Council, commented: "Gold was first discovered in ancient times, when goldsmiths of the day worked with it to create ornaments for adornment and symbols of wealth. We believe David's work is significant because he has pushed the boundaries of new technology and in doing so, has discovered new and exciting ways of working with one of the oldest metals known to man. We applaud the results of David's work, and look forward to seeing his influence permeate the jewellery industry."

David will be making a series of eight gold rings for his final year degree show, which will be on display and for sale from 28 May to 6 June, as part of The Show: One at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2EU.

- Ends -

For further information and images please contact Sue Bradburn, Media Relations Officer at the RCA on 020 7590 4114 or e: sue.bradburn@rca.ac.uk.

For further information about the World Gold Council, contact Anita Saunders, Head of Public Relations at the World Gold Council, on 0207 826 4716 or 07769 682373 or e-mail anita.saunders@gold.org.

Notes to editors:

- The World Gold Council (WGC), a commercially-driven marketing organisation, is funded by the world's leading gold mining companies. A global advocate for gold, the WGC aims to promote the demand for gold in all its forms through marketing activities in major international markets. For further information visit www.gold.org.
- The Royal College of Art is the world's only wholly postgraduate university of art and design, specialising in teaching and research and offering the degrees of MA, MPhil and PhD across the disciplines of fine art, applied art, design, communications and humanities. There are over nine hundred masters and doctoral students and more than a hundred professionals interacting with them - including scholars, leading practitioners of art and design and innumerable specialists, advisors and distinguished visitors.