

OC OF THE MONTH

APRIL 2019



Ruby Taglight (TL 2012)

A LEVEL: ART, CHEMISTRY, ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY: PAINTING AND PRINTMAKING AT THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

[LINKEDIN PROFILE](#)

1. Tell us about yourself – where do you currently work, and how did you get into that?

I currently work part time for an independent, ethical jewellery designer called Pippa Small. During the rest of the week I work on my own designs and creations, hoping to soon become fully self employed as a jeweller. During my time at Art School, I developed my own research into the function of adornment in daily life, and how we in the modern world value the objects around us. This led me to further my research doing a Graduate Gemologist Diploma at the Gemological Institute of America in New York. When I arrived home, I decided to return to my love of making, whilst incorporating my passion for adornment; jewellery was the natural progression.

2. What are some of your proudest achievements since graduating?

My proudest achievements have come from trusting my instinct and following my interests, whilst not knowing how they were going to turn into a career. I have enrolled myself not only in the Gemological Institute of America, but also the London Jewellery School, to teach myself the basic overview of jewellery design and manufacture. I am most proud of my decision to design and make all my pieces from start to finish and being able to give myself the resources to stick to this.

3. What advice would you give someone who is looking to follow a similar career path?

Try to gain as much knowledge about the industry as you can, even if you are unsure how relevant it will be. You would be surprised how many people are prepared to help you, do not be afraid to ask for advice - showing willingness to learn is a great attribute. Be polite to everyone!

4. How has your experience at Highgate contributed to your life and successes since leaving school? (i.e. skills learned)

Highgate helped me to have confidence in my strengths and taught me to be professional in every endeavour.

5. In three words, how would you describe Highgate?

Supportive

Forward-thinking

Nurturing

6. What's next?

Just to continue to expand my business! I want to be involved in more projects and gain a wider audience for my brand.