

Kate Hamilton-Hunter Studio Heritage Collection

Kate Hamilton-Hunter Studio produces delicate hand-made jewellery fashioned from all kinds of modern and vintage tins. Kate's treasured collection of vintage biscuit, sweet and toffee tins have been upcycled to create this unique jewellery collection. An area of a lovely old tin is carefully chosen to cut out and create a one-off piece of jewellery, using only sterling silver findings and chains, Swarovski crystals and pearls.

Designed by Kate and created on the stunning coast of North Wales, the collection comprises filigree rings, studs and brooches along with long, Downton Abbey inspired necklaces, dainty oval silver mounts and cufflinks.

Kate sources tins primarily from family and friends, antique shops, eBay and charity shops, "We've also found it useful to put a call out for specific tins on the studio's social media channels, which always gains plenty of interest and deliveries of tins!" she explains. Kate began her first business at the age of nineteen as a seamstress, specialising in bespoke bridal gowns. Nine years later she went back into education to study design, embroidery and textiles and then taught in higher education for five years.

"During this time, I developed a technique for working with metal using my knowledge of textiles," recalls Kate. "Starting with aluminium, copper and brass,

I soon discovered a new material to make my designs from – recycled and reclaimed biscuit tins, loving the colour, pattern and graphic design on old and modern tins. Starting with wall-hangings, framed work and stationery, these designs evolved into jewellery."

See the latest collections from Kate Hamilton-Hunter Studio on Stand 327 at The British Craft Trade Fair, 6-8 April, Harrogate. www.katehstudio.co.uk

