

# PREPARE TO BE BLOWN AWAY

## Glass Decorations To Adorn... You!



The latest contemporary jewellery is perfect for Christmas. Blown-glass baubles and balls look just as good on you as they do on your Christmas tree. *Peter Holland* meets some of the exciting local jewellery designers exhibiting at the Dazzle showcase in Manchester

Each tiny bubble of glass is individually hand-blown. The bubbles are then painted with precious metal lustres of gold or platinum. Others are blown in bold, bright coloured glass. Some are transparent.

The “bubble” rings, earrings, bracelets and necklaces made by jewellery designer-maker Charlotte Verity are quite unique.

In her studio in Salford, Charlotte is busy creating her own distinctive style of modern jewellery. Her talent, and that of more than fifty other designers, is now being celebrated by Dazzle – a sparkling showcase of innovative and glamorous contemporary jewellery at Manchester Town Hall.

Charlotte hopes the exhibition will make people stop and stare...and perhaps even buy!

“I like to think my bubble jewellery will both impress people and make them smile. Yes they do look Christmassy, especially the red and green ones, but I prefer to think they look great all year-round,” she said. “You can dress them up as part of a formal outfit or dress them down and go casual, either way the bubbles are always a talking point.”

Expect to pay £25 to £30 for small earrings and around £180 for one of the large bubble rings. Charlotte’s stunning bubble neck pieces take weeks to make and cost around £1,200.

Hold on. They are made out of glass, yes? So what happens if you drop them?

“People think that because they are glass they must be fragile. They’re not, they’re quite strong. Drop them on a hard surface and they bounce rather than break. Glass is tough,” added Charlotte who is one of only a few British jewellery designers now using glass-blowing techniques.

“People seem very shocked and surprised that I’m using glass but they shouldn’t be, after all it was one of the very first raw materials ever used. Bones, shells and stones were used in jewellery and once glass was discovered they started using that too,” she said.

Charlotte graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University where she’d studied 3 Dimensional Design. Metalwork and glass were her chosen disciplines, the materials she wanted to experiment and work with. She’s only been in business for a year and has already built up a reputation for fabulous contemporary style.

“Jewellery design was always my focus. Few if any designers are using glass in the same blown way I do,” she said. “My style of jewellery suits just about all ages. Gold bubbles suit an older person whereas the pinks and transparent bubbles suit younger people.” ■

