



□ PAPER LACE: Fran Dodgson and Bex Bardson wear colourful necklaces by Ana Hagopian

Dazzling jewellery for Material Girls



□ CHERRY RED: Bex Bardon wears a brooch by Lynsey Walters

FASHION



by SALLY CLIFFORD

Diamonds may be a girl's best friend but try stepping out in style in textile jewellery inspired by travel.

Material Girl featuring pieces in felt, velvet, wool, silk, wood, wire paper and paint, is the latest exhibition of distinctive jewellery and accessories at Kath Libbert's gallery in Salts Mill, Saltaire.

The show, which runs from July 14 to August 31, is a collaboration of collections from UK and Europe celebrating the diverse creative talents of jewellery designers working with a wide range of textiles and other natural materials.

"Material Girl features work I have discovered and admired on my travels over the past few years - the collections are all textile-based, yet vary greatly - and the exhibition is an exciting opportunity to show them all together," explains Kath.

"Some of the pieces challenge the definition of jewellery, blurring and, in some cases, crashing through the boundaries between art, jewellery design and fashion. But above all, this is a collection of beautifully crafted, tactile jewellery that cries out to be held, touched and worn." One of the show highlights is the eye-catching orange dress created from raw wool by the talented Swiss designer Karin Wagner, whose stunning brooches and rings made from merino felt flowers also form part of the Material Girl collection.

Karin, who has worked with famous designer Christian Lacroix, offered to make the installation piece as a promotional tool, but a potential buyer has already taken details of the £3,500 limited edition piece. "It's such a striking piece it



□ GEMS: Kath Libbert with velvet and silver mesh rings by Tomasi of Munich, above; rings by Ana Hagopian, left



glows and for Karin to dedicate herself to doing this for us is such a privilege," says Kath.

"It's a welcome to the show."

Other features include colourful neckpieces crafted from gauze and paper and created by Barcelona jewellery Ana Hagopian; Amsterdam jeweller, Beppe Kestler's crystal and bead creations, Londoner Julie Arkell's vintage fabric and wool brooches and wristwatch bracelets and Liverpoolian Suzanne McCulloch's embroidered merino felt chokers and cuffs in pastel shades.

● *Material Girl runs from July 14 to August 31. Prices range from £10 to £300. To find out more call the gallery on (01274) 599790 or email kath.libbert@ukgateway.net*

