



NELSON MANDELA

Rucker Fine Jewellery London

PURE MIND
RARE VISION
ETERNAL SPIRIT

by TOM RUCKER



©2019 Tom Rucker Fine Jewellery London



A life size, laser welded bust by
artist goldsmith Tom Rucker

Platinum sourced from Rustenburg
Black Diamonds from Kimberley
Black Rhodium
White Meissen Porcelain

Single laser spot welds 1.9 million
with an ALPHA Laser ALM

Manufacture time 14 months

3.4 kilos / 18 x 20.5 x 28.5 cm

Hallmarked at London Assay Office

During a holiday in South Africa in May 2009, Tom watched a crowd of football playing teenagers in the Khayelitsha township and was curious to find out who they would name as their greatest idol. They responded in unison, Mandela.

"Coming from my world I was expecting them to shout out any football or Hollywood star. This emotional experience inspired the vision to laser weld a life size profile of former President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nelson Mandela“.

In the same year Tom approached the Nelson Mandela Foundation and family to obtain permission to make this sculpture. In 2010 he was able to start the manufacturing process which took him 14 months to complete.

As a starting point, a number of various life size models, representing Nelson Mandela's face and head at his peak of his career in 1994 were created.

A countless number of 0.2mm ultrafine platinum wire segments were laser welded into a geodesic structure consisting of more than 1.9 million single laser spot welds on completion. The entire work was done freehand under a microscope; no computerised process was involved. Each skin detail has been mirrored in the surface of the platinum structure. The result is a thin and light appearance of Mandela entirely constructed in platinum with eyes set with black diamonds in black rhodium.



©2019 Tom Ruzker Fine Jewelry London

©2019 Tom Rucker Fine Jewellery London

“Nelson Mandela has inspired millions of people in the world to live together in peace and freedom. He has dedicated his entire life through his active involvement in resolving conflicts, promoting human rights, international democracy and reconciliation, and in addressing racial issues. In 2009, I set about creating a unique and precious sculpture to encapsulate all he stands for and named it...”

‘PURE MIND – RARE VISION – ETERNAL SPIRIT’

Tom Rucker is an artist goldsmith who uses state of the art laser welding technology in conjunction with superlative goldsmithing skills to create unique jewellery pieces and objets d'art. He works mainly in platinum and diamonds and is globally recognised as being one of the most influential platinum jewellery designers of his time.

Tom was born in 1970 in Munich, Germany, the fourth generation of a well-established goldsmithing family. He graduated in 1995 as a master goldsmith. In 1997 he set up the now well-known creative laser-welding course at Birmingham City University having pioneered the technique in the United Kingdom.

He has received many awards, including eight Goldsmiths' Craftsmanship and Design Awards, the prestigious German Benvenuto Cellini Gold Medal for the highest standard of excellence in jewellery design and manufacturing, the Lonmin Design Innovation Award three times, the Prix Arctica of the University of Lapland and many recognitions from the Tokyo International Pearl Design Contest, special honours from the Japanese and Western Cape Government and many more.

Special thanks to the Rupert Museum, Stellenbosch which has provided a home for the sculpture since its unveiling in 2012. www.rupertmuseum.org

For further information: www.tomrucker.co.uk - hello@tomrucker.co.uk

All images ©2012 The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, London, UK



facebook.com/tomlaserrucker