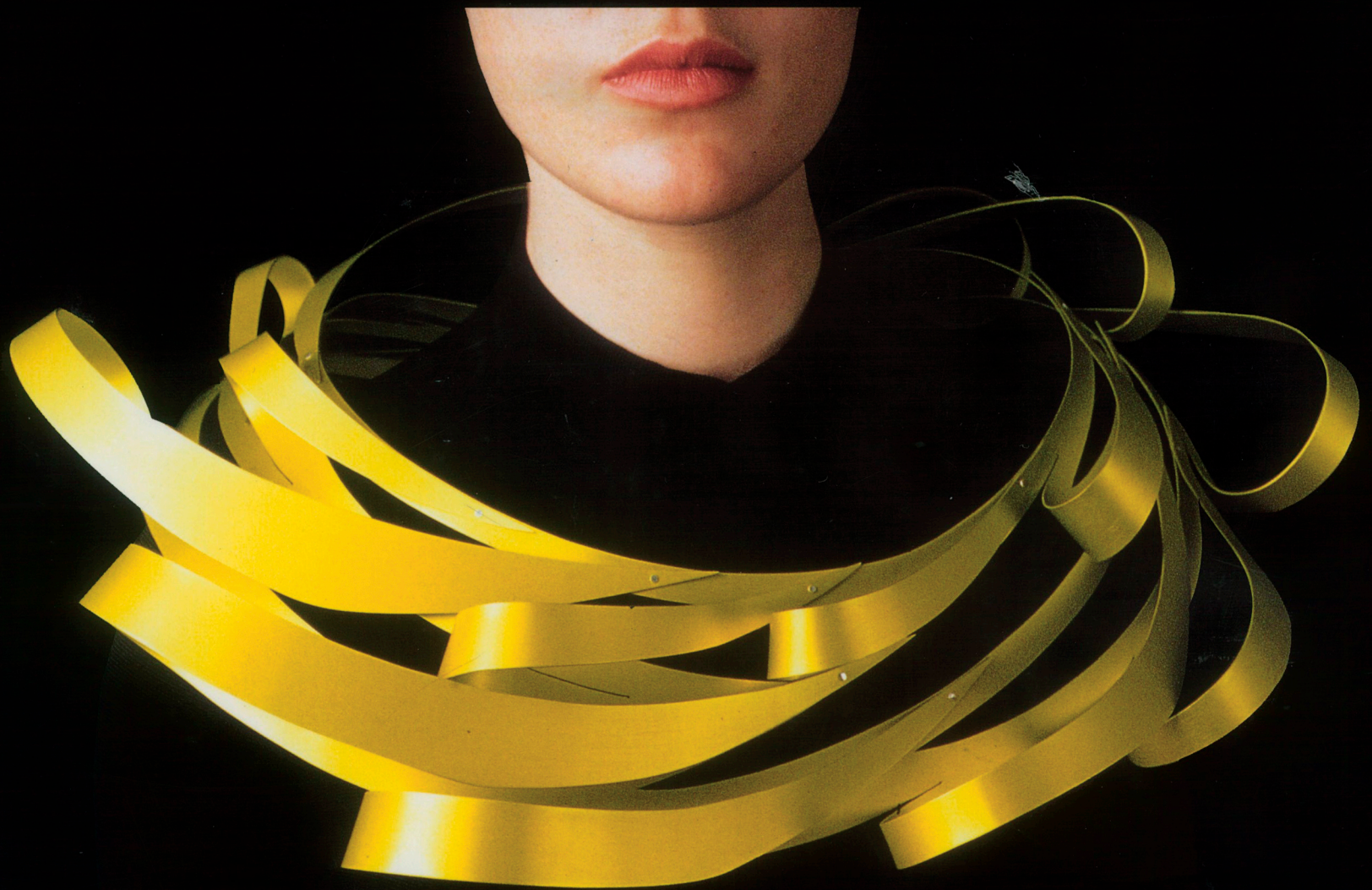
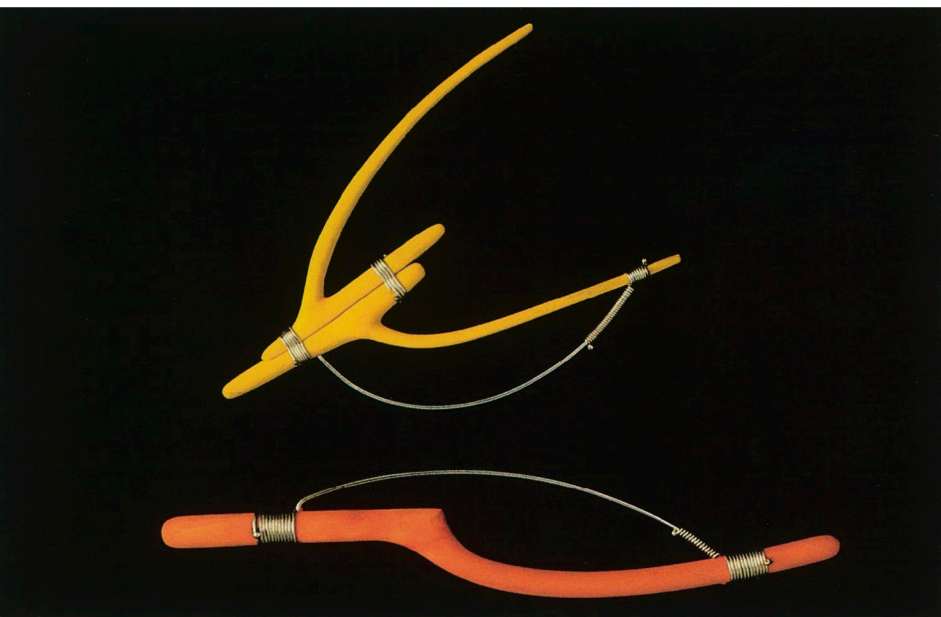


CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY  
in Australia and New Zealand



Patricia Anderson

# STEVE MULQUEEN



Steve Mulqueen was born in Invercargill, New Zealand in 1953. In 1974 he completed a four-year jewellery apprenticeship in Invercargill and in 1975 he worked with Jens Hansen in Nelson before completing a Diploma of Fine and Applied Arts (majoring in three-dimensional design) at Otago School of Art, Dunedin. In 1983 he amalgamated his workshop with Kobi Bosshard's to form Fluxus, a gallery and workshop for contemporary jewellery in Dunedin. He currently tutors in the faculty of design and visual arts at the Southland Polytechnic, Invercargill. He has had solo exhibitions in Dunedin, Wellington, Auckland and Invercargill, and has taken part in a number of group shows around New Zealand.

In 1992 Mulqueen was awarded a grant from the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand to undertake postgraduate studies at the Institute of the Arts, Australian National University. The result was an exhibition of sculptural objects and jewellery in stone and metal which linked artworks and artefacts specifically to the regional history of the South Island of New Zealand. This exhibition, entitled '*Papakihau*' (which means 'slapped by the wind') was shown in

Canberra in 1993 and then toured a number of North Island public art galleries in 1995 before being presented at the Rotorua Museum of Art and History in 1996.

He has made distinctive jewellery using a combination of pure silver and paua and mother-of-pearl shell, but more recently he has been constructing brooches that use silver birch wood or pumice dyed in bright colours. The former material is attached to the body by means of silver wires while the pumice pieces are encased in minimal silver cages. Mulqueen continues to work on a scale which varies from the intimate (his pieces of jewellery) to the sculptural (larger-scale objects).

His work is represented in the collection of Auckland Museum, New Zealand.

**Opposite:** *Two Pruning Brooches*, 1987–88, dyed silver birch, sterling silver, 130 mm, collection of the artist. **Right:** *Three Brooches*, 1991–92, dyed pumice, fine silver, stainless steel, 70 mm, private collections

