

## **Use of Guild Marks**

*A core function of the Gold and Silversmith's Guild of Australia is to administer and facilitate the time-honored practice of gold and silversmith's marking their work with their personal makers mark, alongside the metal purity marks as set by Australian Standards AS-2140-08.*

These members' makers marks are struck on fine silver "touchplates" which remain the property of the Gold and Silversmith's Guild of Australia, archived as a permanent record for posterity. This enables future generations to identify the maker of artworks and Jewellery, assisting the process of establishing provenance.

This marking system is unique in Australia. Only acceptance as a Fellow of the GSGA entitles makers to the use of the iconic kangaroo head which is the Guild Mark.

This mark is Trade Mark registered in various forms, and therefore protected and cannot be used by anyone not a current member of the Guild, each punch is numbered and issued to a member on joining. The punch remains the property of the Guild and is therefore legally required to be returned when membership is ceased.

### **Standards of use for Guild marks**

The Guild mark can only be used:

- On metals meeting standard AS-2140-08
- Where accompanied by the appropriate metal purity mark consistent with AS-3140-08
- Where the design manufacture has taken place in Australia
- Where accompanied by the member's makers mark.
- The use of the Date Mark is optional, however if it is used it must be accompanied by the Guild Mark.
- Where the Fellow's own has been a significant part of the creative process. \*

### **Date mark**

Cannot be used unless accompanied by the guild mark

The date mark may be purchased by members, its use commences on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year. The date mark exhibits the same letter as that used by The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths – Guildhall in Britain, but within the shape of the diamond border.

This provides ease of recognition of the date of manufacture, as collectors and others interested have ready access to those images. The use of the date letter is optional but desirable to aid the process of establishing provenance.

## **Recommendations for the use of the Guild Mark**

Regarding items that have been manufactured by means other than hand-fabrication, the work may only be stamped with the guild mark if:

- The original work or “master pattern” is that of the Fellow
- That the Fellow takes personal responsibility for the quality of all work and metal purity of the final piece.
- The Guild mark is stamped on the work individually, after production and NOT reproduced “in-situ”.

### **Some examples are:**

Moulding and Casting a master pattern to reproduce multiples of a design. The master must be an original work and the standard of professional finish is suitable. The Guild mark is stamped post manufacture and not cast “in-situ”.

Casting from wax: The wax design is the original work of the member and of quality they are proud to have marked.

Computer Aided Design and Manufacture: (CAD CAM): The Fellow takes responsibility for the originality of design and professional quality of the finished work. The Guild Mark must be hand-stamped and not part of a print.