

Simon Coldicott

18th December 1957 - 28th May 2020

Simon was the fifth of the six children of Peter & Diana Coldicott, of Hydegate, Long Sutton. With two of his elder brothers, Graham & Martin, he was educated at LWC during the late 60's / early 70's. During this time he discovered his great passion of 'bending metal'; excelling at 'O' level, he then went on to do Metalwork 'A' Level, under the tutorage of Mr 'Cheers' Bullock, the first to do so at LWC.

After an Art Foundation Year at Farnham Art School, he was given a place at Sir John Cass School of Art, in East London, to study silversmithing. After graduating, he was offered a full time job at a jewellers in North London, where he had had a Saturday job during his studies.

It wasn't long before Simon came to the attention of the young, and now worldrenowned, jewellery designer Theo Fennell. At his interview, Theo gave Simon a list, asking 'do you think you can make these?' When Simon responded yes, the second question was 'what would you like to drink?' Whisky he replied, and that was Simon's last job interview! They worked together for the next 38 years, Simon remaining steadfastly loyal to Theo, through all the ups and downs of the business. Theo designed and Simon crafted so many incredible commissions, including pieces for the Royal Family, and global celebrities such as Elton John.

In his fifties, Simon, for his own satisfaction, also started making scale models in Sterling Silver. The first was a 1:8 model of the iconic Manx Norton racing motorbike. He entered this into the 2013 Goldsmiths' Craft & Design Council annual competition; he not only won his class, but was also awarded The Senior Award, for the best piece in the show. He followed in 2014 with a 1:8 model of an MV Agusta racing motorbike, which not only won the competition, but for which he was awarded 'The Jacques Cartier Memorial Award' – given at the discretion of the council for exceptional and outstanding craftsmanship; he is one of only five recipients in the last decade. These models were followed by the 'Tornado' steam train, and two formula1 cars: the JPS Lotus 72, in which Emerson Fittipaldi won the World Championship in 1972, and the Lotus 33/R11 in which Jim Clark won his second World Championship in 1965 . The accuracy and detail of these models have to be seen to be believed.

Following Simon's passing, Brian Hill, on behalf of the Goldsmiths' Craft & Design Council, wrote: Simon was a top, top craftsman of the highest order in our beloved profession. Although he arrived on the GC&DC scene relatively later in his significant career, the impact he made was considerably positive, far reaching and a brilliant benchmark for fellow entrants to aspire to, and work towards Simon's impressive capabilities, achievements and craftsmanship. Without doubt, Simon's legacy of fine craftsmanship, and across a range of scales, enriched and inspired many in the profession, and both the Council and the industry recognise, appreciate, value, applaud and celebrate Simon's immense impact and contribution he made over his wonderful career and life.

Simon enjoyed a number of hobbies; he loved music, and played drums in several rock bands, his style, inaccurately likened to that of Animal in the Muppet Show! He raced 50cc motorbikes when young, then matured into a 'country gent', enjoying fishing, shooting and walking his dogs.

Simon found his soul-mate in his third wife, Kate; they were devoted to each other to the end, and he was a wonderful step-father to her two sons, Charles and Josh. He was a truly unique character, proud to be somewhat eccentric, with a big heart, and not a bad bone in his body; he was liked, admired or loved by everyone who knew him.

He received a terminal prognosis soon after falling ill, with a possibility of living a further six months, if the chemotherapy was successful. He accepted his prognosis and treatment with dignity and bravery, showing great strength to all those close to him. He kept working, when his strength would allow, in his home workshop, until his final days; determined to make as many beautiful things as he could to add to his amazing legacy.

