

The Birmingham casting house, 3D printing and bespoke manufacturing company, Weston Beamor, has been in the casting business since the end of the second world war and as Glen Day, its Head of Business Development explains, thanks to recent investment in new technologies the company is offering the designer/maker community all the support it needs to produce the next generation of contemporary jewellery.

“Weston Beamor has a long tradition of innovation and it has recently been engaged in a Government funded ‘High Value Manufacturing Catapult’ initiative, working closely with academics at a well-known Midland university to move its casting processes forward and provide a service fit for meeting the needs of the jewellery-making community for the next decade,” says Glen Day. As Glen explains, the company has invested heavily in new casting equipment particularly ideal for platinum and palladium casting, and has worked closely with the university staff to find the best possible methods of dealing with the nuances of the lost wax casting methods using synthetic casting resins developed for today’s design platform.



“We have learnt a great deal from Catapult and I am delighted to report that as a result of our participation we can now offer our customers an even more reliable casting service than in the past. We have also been able to fine tune our processes and learn more about the ever evolving waxes and resins that are available to us today and which offer so many exciting possibilities,” he says. The company offers a three-day turnaround on casting orders, with the ability to supply castings in 24 hours. Thanks to its in-house Assay Office, manned by the Assay Office Birmingham, castings, if requested, can be delivered fully hallmarked.

The company casts in all carats and colours of gold, silver, platinum and palladium and also offers its customers a full, bespoke-manufacturing package. This includes: creating CAD files to a customer’s own brief; providing 3D photo-realistic renders of the proposed design; working with customers to ensure their own CAD files are fit for purpose and producing wax or resin prototypes for approval before the casting begins.

“It is very exciting how casting has developed and continues to develop. Recent advances mean that we can tackle extremely large and complex designs which previously either could not have been made, or would have needed to be produced in several separate parts. We can also achieve a high-level of fine detail and exciting textures and these developments have given the new generation of jewellery designers, tremendous freedom and have opened up a range of new possibilities,” Glen continues. The company offers everything from one-off bespoke pieces through to large, batch castings and its customers include some of the best-known names in contemporary jewellery making.

“We find that designers are turning to us more and more for help with producing their most popular designs. Whilst it may be acceptable to make a piece a few times by hand it becomes much less appealing, and less economically viable, when you are making a significant quantity of the same design. Clearly castings will still need finishing by hand, but a lot of the hard slog has already been done and without any compromise in the look or the quality of the finished piece,” he explains.

One jeweller who feels she has benefitted from her collaboration with the team at Weston Beamor is the Cornish designer Mirri Damer (www.mirridamer.com), who in addition to selling from her own shop in Falmouth supplies stockists throughout the UK. Mirri Damer’s distinctive jewellery, in gold, silver and a variety of precious gemstones, is inspired by the local coastline and is coveted for its timeless style and low-key luxury look.

“Weston Beamor makes casting moulds from my handmade silver masters which can then be used to reproduce my designs. They have been extremely helpful in coming up with ways to solve difficult, technical problems and have found ways of ensuring that the detail in each piece is reproduced cleanly. Every area comes out well and this enables my work to have its signature textured surfaces,” she explains.

The company is currently working with Mirri to produce her latest range of ‘Drift’ jewellery which is inspired by those perfect days spent collecting driftwood on the beach. Other popular collections include her ‘Bud’ stacking rings and ‘Crown’ rings.

“Mirri’s jewellery is technically challenging to cast, especially one of her latest hollow necklace designs, but thanks to the expertise of our team we have found ways of making it work and are delighted to be able to help her bring her imaginative and distinctive pieces to reality,” says Glen.

Further information about Weston Beamor’s bespoke jewellery making services can be found at www.westonbeamor.co.uk



Mirri Damer

