

Detail of "Opah", moonfish  
Silver and copper  
36 cm x 12 cm £250



# Sam MacDonald

Text by Gunild Pak Symes  
Photos by Lighthouse Photography

**A move to the remote northern Scottish province of Orkney sparked a love of the sea, fishing and diving for the increasingly known metals artist, Sam MacDonald. Made up of 70 islands, Orkney, which also has a rich cultural and historical heritage, is a haven for diving, fishing and outdoor enthusiasts. Sam has taken inspiration from his beautiful and magical surroundings to inform his work of marine life forms and textural surfaces.**

Originally from Lewis, Sam began to study and contemplate the sculptural form of fish after taking up fishing. From the glint of scales to the skeletal structure, Sam cap-

tures the textural and fleeting forms of fish in various metals of copper, lead, pewter and gold leaf. He finds the dimension of time in his work by utilizing the concept of fossilization. By studying the impressions of sea life left in split rocks millions of years old, Sam fashions prehistory and ancient memory in his sculptures with masterful manipulation and distressing of metal materials.

He often leaves out visual information of fish forms, offering only clues to the subject, thereby creating a sense of mystery to the image. He says that the mind's eye will often fill in missing visual information in a way that gives the viewer a more full and rounded experience of the artwork.

Sam is



Fiona MacDonald

Detail of "Herring Hook"  
Pewter copper and gold leaf  
160 cm x 50 cm x 2 cm £5000





"Born in a Storm"  
Pewter, copper and gold leaf  
40 cm x 40 cm £780



Detail of "Slimehead Composition"  
Brass, ferracotta and copper  
58 x 58 cm £500



"Turbot"  
Ferracotta and copper  
53 cm x 54 cm £550







"Velvet and Gold"  
Silver, copper, brass and gold leaf  
58 cm x 122 cm £1100

interested not only in the beauty of the sea, but also in its more terrible aspects and its predatory side. He finds inspiration in the the exposed beauty of a skeletal structure in, for example, the remains of a fish. He sees the beauty in its "dead eyes". Beauty and meaning can often be found in what many would call ugly.

Sam often works in lead. He says that since it is an ugly and poisonous metal, "there is a feeling of alche-



"Sandeels"  
Pewter, lead, copper and gold leaf  
58 cm x 122 cm £1500

my when crafting something of value from a supposedly dead material". He also works with gold leaf to accentuate the flash of scales that can be seen in nature when a school of fish changes direction.

Ecology is a great concern to Sam as he questions what will be left of the world's natural treasures in the future and what fossilized remains of our present time will be left for future generations to contemplate.



"Slime Head Bed"  
Lead and copper  
25 cm x 48 cm £1600

These concerns are often expressed in his artwork where both a texture of the natural world of today and the timeless experience of the prehistoric past co-exist. ■

*Sam has exhibited his work widely and has a two year waiting list on commissions from patrons all over the world. For more information or to contact the artist, visit his web site at: [www.sam-macdonald.co.uk](http://www.sam-macdonald.co.uk)*

"Silver Darlings"  
Pewter, copper and gold leaf  
50 cm x 163 cm £1500







"John Dorys"  
Lead and copper  
81.5 cm x 21 cm £900



"Flounder"  
Pewter, copper and gold leaf  
50 cm x 70 cm £500



"Herring Shoal at Depth"  
Pewter, gold leaf, copper and brass  
81.5 cm x 122.5 cm £2500







TOP: "Herring Square"  
Pewter, copper and gold leaf  
20 cm x 20 cm £280

BOTTOM: "Oxeye"  
Lead and copper  
30 cm x 30 cm £650

TOP: "Old Fish"  
Lead and copper  
30 cm x 30 cm £650

BOTTOM: "Herring Square"  
Pewter, copper and gold leaf  
20 cm x 20 cm £280

TOP: "Hatchet Fish"  
Silver, brass and copper  
40 cm x 40 cm £500

BOTTOM: "Hatchet Split Frame I"  
Pewter, copper and gold leaf  
30 cm x 30 cm £350







TOP: Detail of "Hatchet on Plate"  
Pewter, copper and brass  
25 cm x 28 cm £150

LEFT: Detail of "Skate Profiles"  
Copper  
77 cm x 46 cm £700



For more information or to order art works, visit [www.sam-macdonald.co.uk](http://www.sam-macdonald.co.uk)  
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