

**PETER CHANG (1944 - still alive today)**  
**Contemporary designer**

**Where/when was he born....?**

**Peter Chang was born in 1944 in Liverpool, UK. His parents were British and Chinese.**

**Who is he - what does he do...?**

He is now a jewellery designer. He completed degrees in graphic design and sculpture at Liverpool College of Art. He later worked for printmaker Stanley William Hayter in Paris. His Asian heritage is a strong theme in his artwork. He consistently brings up the balance of good and evil in his Frankenstein like/sci-fi forms. Many of the Surrealist pieces he encountered working under Hayter at Atelier 17, also had a profound influence on Chang's work. **His organic style strongly reflects marine life with their vivid colours and alien forms.**

**His main works are....?**

**Peter Chang produces mainly jewellery in the form of bangles/bracelets and brooches.** He uses a variety of methods to achieve the bright colours and bizarre shapes **\*(see notes on materials below)** He layers acrylic over his pieces to introduce bright colours. He also explores how colours work together, the responses colour provokes in a viewer, and what colour symbolises in nature. For example in some birds of paradise, colour is used to attract whilst in other creatures, poisonous snakes for example, it is used as a warning. Sometimes these are messages in Chang's work, but the viewer will have their own opinions on each piece.

**His use of colour is also influenced by his mixed UK-Chinese background.** In the 1980s Chang collected coloured acrylic signs from the local sign writer in Berry St, Liverpool. These had been removed from shop doorways in Liverpool's Chinatown. The coloured signs produced by the manufacturer were limited, and were more limited by what was popular within the local Chinese community. **The colours red and yellow were especially popular, and form a colour combination often seen in Chang's work.**

**What materials does he use.....?**

**Chang's jewellery designs are made in polyester resin mixed with fibreglass with either a foam or wooden base.** He then uses a layer of polyester resin mixed with fibreglass for structural stability. He layers acrylic over his pieces to introduce bright colours. His jewellery pieces are finished with a transparent layer of varnish. **He carves and cuts away the acrylic so that each piece looks different.** He also incorporates found objects into his pieces. **Many of Chang's earlier plastic pieces were made entirely of recycled plastics.**

**\*(see jewellery glossary sheet - for explanations of terms).**

**Influences & the Future.....?**

**Peter Chang is always searching for new influences - eg: the mathematical patterns that occur in nature and patterns such as the structure of a honeycomb or the complex pattern of a fly's eye are all of interest to him.** He is mainly inspired by the natural world. He also uses images from urban living and designs pieces with pattern and rhythm. Sprouting tentacles and cactus-like branches are common elements in his designs. He has often used a symbolic Stanley-knife blade in a brooch design for example. He enjoys taking details from ordinary objects and mixing them with details from other ordinary objects, together making something special. Details could be taken from a trainer shoe or a car bumper, no source is considered too simple. His jewellery pieces are thought provoking and often designed to shock. Peter Chang continues to produce jewellery that refuses to be categorised.