

# Anna Lewis



The ' Presence ' jewelry collection is made from hand printed goose feathers combined with silver, leather and nylon monofilament. The collection includes necklaces, chains, rings, earrings, pins and neck wraps. The imagery / prints on the feathers include buttons, writing, pink petals, flowers, maps, lace, butterfly wings, faces etc.

## *Inspiration*

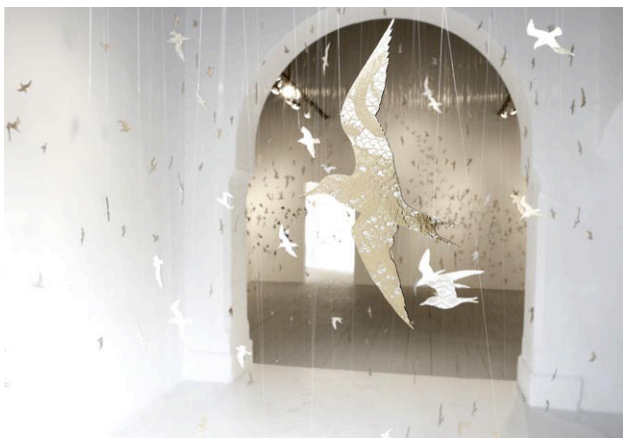
All work in this series (Presence, Trace, Vanished) is inspired by the ghost like and transient nature of memory and the symbolic fragile association of the feather said to be the measure of your soul.

## *Artist Statement*

“Memory, memorial, superstitions, amulets, and shrines are interconnecting themes, which inspire and inform my work be it jewelry or large-scale installation. I now realize I am striving to discover the symbolic significance of objects in peoples lives whether they are personal, religious, cultural, or universal. Stemming from a fascination with recording my own personal history I am interested in the relationship people have with certain objects and how they influence behavior and belief through their material meanings.

All information on this page was collected from Anna Lewis’s official website,  
<http://www.annalewisjewellery.co.uk/> in April 2009.

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#### *Explanation of Work*

Cathexis is one word which summarizes everything that inspires and informs my work. Cathexis means an attachment or transfer of emotional energy and significance onto and into an object idea or person. This is central to my research. Memory, memorial, superstitions, amulets and shrines are interconnecting themes

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### *Interview with Caroline Broadhead*

Q: You have had a strong interest in the power of objects to reflect sentiment and trigger memory for a long time, can you say something about how you think this works? Can it be any object? Does it depend on material quality?

A: The power of an object or the hold it has over you has nothing to do with the material quality or value. It does not have to be an antique item of jewelry; it can be anything from a button to a chest of drawers. Certain items can spark a collective memory or sentiment or belief – items an entire generation or culture can relate to – a type of fabric print, a wallpaper, a toy or game. Some objects are more important than others in terms of sentiment and memory triggers. I feel all possessions relate and tell stories in a way but it is a small few which resonate. It is those which we are attached to and almost anthropomorphise in our relationship to it. The belongings of the dead are most significant – they seem to hold the person's essence, they become symbolic of that person and over time become harder to detach from. However, this relationship to 'sentimental' objects is not always a good one while they can be comforting there is also a possibility that they can suffocate and weigh us down.

The pieces I create are extremely personal. Because I am using imagery related to things owned by people I have lost, they become a type of memorial and take on energy or some sort of power. I see parallels to the power and belief in amulets – the personalized amulet is the most powerful of

all - am I in fact creating my own amulets? Are they  
comforting and protective?