



PLATINUM

PRESS RELEASE

PLATINUM GUILD INTERNATIONAL

## **The Emotional Side of Platinum Platinum Innovation Prize for Dominique Labordery**

**It plays with the most precious of all metals and it is a *pas de deux* of geometrical shapes: platinum shows its modern expressive power in a distinctive and changeable ring by Dominique Labordery. The jewellery designer received the inhorgenta europe Innovation Prize for her design.**

Dominique Labordery is fascinated by platinum. "It has a noble colour that seems neither warm nor cold, and it radiates reserve and understatement," the jewellery artist explains. At the same time, the world's purest and rarest precious metal challenges and inspires her to achieve unconventional effects. This jewellery artist, from Duesseldorf, Germany, strives to reveal the emotional side of platinum, and she succeeds in that endeavour because she can make platinum look as though it were delicate and light, with a pleated, fabric-like texture. She also crafts the metal into purist, geometrical shapes.

By combining these two opposites, Dominique Labordery created an unusual piece of jewellery: her "Platinum Groove" ring grants equal rights to the square and the circle, which interflow in the form of broad platinum bands with a pleated texture. For this artist, the square symbolizes reason and the intellectually controlled part of a human being, while the circle stands for the feelings and emotions.



## **Why "Platinum Groove"?**

The jurors of the InHorgenta Europe Innovation Prize were so impressed by this harmony that they decided to award Dominique Labordery the First Prize in the platinum category. This year marked the second time that the prize has been awarded by the Platinum Guild International Germany.

The jury chose the "Platinum Groove" ring because of the "impressive simplicity of its surface treatment, which offers cool and unpretentious access to the preciousness and understatement of platinum." The jurors further explained: "The various ways in which the basic shapes of the square and the circle can be worn are elegantly combined to create a platinum ring imbued with minimalist, contemporary expressive power."

When it is not being worn, the ring has a sculptural quality with an exciting aura; when it is slipped onto a finger, the "Platinum Groove" reveals its versatility and mutability. Dominique Labordery's ring, which can be worn equally comfortably on the middle finger or the ring finger, always creates a dominant accent. If only one of the ring's halves is slipped onto a finger, the other half rises above the wearer's hand like an *objet d'art* – angular or round, and entirely in accord with the whims and moods of the woman who wears it, free to decide whether she prefers to slip the square or the circle onto her finger.



## **Dominique Labordery: Live in All Its Diversity**

The freedom to individually interpret a piece of jewellery and, in one's role as its wearer to determine which expression one wishes to make with it, also distinguishes other designs by Dominique Labordery, who studied jewellery design at the Karel de Grote Hogeschool in Antwerp. Her pieces of jewellery encourage reflection, and their moveable elements leave ample latitude for freely deciding how one wishes to wear each piece. "I appreciate the encounter between the wearer and the piece of jewellery," Dominique Labordery explains.

Other recurrent elements in her oeuvre are her focus on strict, clear forms which, when more closely scrutinized, reveal a remarkably nuanced world of spaces, lights and shadows. Embellishments and colours are used sparingly, although this 47-year-old jewellery artist is particularly fond of the serene and dynamic tones of black, white and red. The situation on her easel is entirely different. Colourful paintings on canvas provide Dominique Labordery with an inspiring change from the austerity of her jewellery designs. Her love for music, as well as the impressions from her many journeys, likewise influence her work with jewellery. A native of Belgium, Dominique Labordery is an enthusiastic and fluently multilingual cosmopolite who appreciates the enrichment that comes from seeing and experiencing new things all over the world. But the most important impulses for Dominique Labordery's pieces of jewellery come from handling the precious metals and from the craftsmanship itself: "I love the traditional goldsmith's techniques," the artist explains. She evolves the shapes while working with the metal: "I newly resume my work with the material every day. The ideas flow out of the metal. I follow a line, look around and observe the effects," Dominique Labordery explains.

In her "Platinum Groove" ring, it was the lively, textile-like effect of the hard form and the precious platinum that sparked her enthusiasm. "That is very exciting, and it gives a soul to the ring. A piece of jewellery should not merely be an object, but should radiate something special."