

Studio Loubser

That's a Wrap

2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the Studio Loubser community as we celebrate our achievements and look forward to 2026. In this edition, we highlight new beginnings, exciting events, and significant milestones that have shaped our journey this year.



New Gems in the Studio

René Loubser joins us as our new Head of School, overseeing administration and student affairs while leading the formalisation of our qualifications, set to officially roll out in 2026.

With over 11 years of experience in tertiary education operations, René brings valuable expertise to the team.



We also welcome Bertus van Rooyen, our newest lecturer, whose arrival allowed us to launch a brand-new Friday morning class — which filled up instantly!

With over two decades in jewellery manufacturing and his own successful workshop in Krugersdorp, Bertus brings exceptional skill, creativity, and passion to our classes.

Stuck on Creativity — Our Glue-tastic Experience with Marta Mattson

We were honoured to host the internationally acclaimed jeweller Marta Mattson, who travelled all the way from Sweden to lead a one-of-a-kind workshop titled “Glue-tastic.”

Our staff and students jumped right in—literally getting their hands sticky—as they explored innovative techniques in jewellery design using glue as the primary medium. The session was filled with laughter, curiosity, and experimentation, leaving everyone inspired by Marta’s playful and boundary-pushing approach to making.

The result? A truly gluetastic day of learning, bonding, and creativity!



Who Let the Jewellers Out? Jewellex Edition!

Being a Studio Loubser student definitely comes with its perks! This year, a big group of our students got the opportunity to attend Jewellex Africa 2025 — South Africa's most exclusive trade-only jewellery exhibition.

Hosted annually by the Jewellery Council of South Africa, Jewellex is where the entire industry gathers — from top designers and suppliers to gem dealers and tool makers — to showcase the newest trends, tech, and treasures.

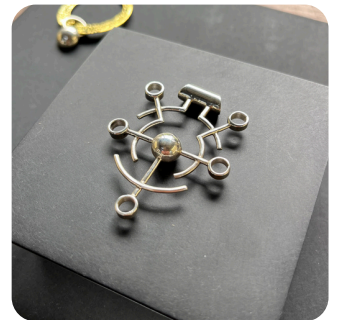
Our students dove right in, meeting potential suppliers, building connections, and soaking up every bit of inspiration from the glittering show floor. They came back buzzing with ideas, stories, and a few extra business cards — not to mention making quite the sparkling impression while they were at it!



A Sparkling New Chapter for Daniel & Esther!

Our talented lecturer Daniel Swanepoel quietly slipped off to London —and came back engaged! He kept it under wraps, but now the secret's out. Congratulations to Daniel and Esther on this exciting new chapter. We wish you both a lifetime filled with love, laughter, and endless sparkle!

Let's Get Serious: Formal Qualifications Launching 2026



In 2025, we ran a successful trial phase of our upcoming formal qualifications — and now it's time to get serious. In 2026, we're officially launching our Certificate, Higher Certificate, and Diploma programs, fully endorsed by the Jewellery Council of South Africa.

This is more than just education — it's a commitment to professional excellence, closing the gap in industry skills, and empowering the next generation of jewellers to truly shine.

Don't worry, hobbyists! We still cater to those who prefer the passion-driven, creative side of jewellery-making. Whether you want to keep it casual or pursue formal qualifications, Studio Loubser continues to offer courses tailored to every student's needs.

Student Spotlight: Helen's Data-Driven Necklace Shines on the International Stage

We're proud to share that one of our long-time students, Helen Perry, has created a remarkable piece for The Jewelry Code: Data as Wearable Art, an exhibition at the National Museum of Kazakhstan. The exhibition transforms real statistics into wearable art, using jewellery to communicate truth in an age of information overload.

Helen's necklace is based on data she analyzed for UN Women on youth in nine East and Southern African countries. Each metal element—sand cast in silver or bronze and detailed with beads—represents real percentages linked to education, employment, and the lived realities of young people in Africa.

Her central baobab motif reflects the high rate of teenage pregnancy in Mozambique, while surrounding elements portray patterns across countries such as Uganda, Malawi, Ethiopia, South Africa, Botswana, and Kenya.

It's a powerful example of how jewellery can tell complex human stories through thoughtful design and craftsmanship. We are so proud of you Helen!



Student Exhibition: 15–19 November



Our annual End of Year Student Jewellery Exhibition took place from 15–19 November, and what a spectacular week it was! Twelve of our talented students showcased their work, each piece reflecting a unique sense of design, creativity, and craftsmanship. We couldn't be prouder to call you our students. The exhibition opened on Saturday to a roaring success, rain and all.



The atmosphere was warm, celebratory, and filled with admiration for the incredible work on display.



A heartfelt thank you to every student who participated. Your dedication, hard work, and passion shone through in every detail. You truly inspired us, and this was a wonderful way to end the year on a high.

Important dates: School closes on 15 December 2025 and reopens on 5 January 2026

Thank You for a Wonderful Year!