



THE ROYAL MINT®
MUSEUM

Medals from the Royal Mint Museum

A selection of medals from the Museum's collection to
serve as inspiration for your design.





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Fragile Earth, Dawn Gulyas

This cast medal shows, not only that medals can vary in shape, but that an artist should consider how both sides of a medal interact with one another. An important principle on a piece of any size or shape.





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Round Dance (Honey Bee), Maureen O’Kane

This medal illustrates the different textures and finishes that can be applied to a piece in order to bring it to life. Both sides of the medal relate to each other, highlighting the importance of the bee to our world and the threat posed to the species by pesticides.





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Coronation Medal, Percy Metcalfe

There is a long history of producing medals to mark the coronation of a new monarch. This beautifully executed struck medal depicts George VI on one side and his wife, Queen Elizabeth, on the other. Both portraits have a softness to them, partly as a result of the design, but also from the toning that has been used to give it a matte appearance.





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Queen Victoria's visit to the Corporation of London, William Wyon RA

Wyon's design to mark Queen Victoria's visit to the Corporation of London not only showcases one of the most graceful portraits of her ever produced, it helps to indicate what can be achieved with architectural forms. Working with relatively low relief, Wyon still manages to convey a real sense of depth on the Guildhall building.





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Hughes Medal, I.H.M Furze

Whilst casting a medal does offer more freedom to an artist, a great deal can be achieved by striking. In particular, it is possible to generate very high relief, as can be seen by the portrait on this example. This does, however, necessitate that the relief on the other side be much lower to accommodate this.





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Homage to Collectors, John Lobban

Some of the most imaginative and creative work is produced by a more abstract approach, as in the case of this design. Showing a coin collector in the guise of a butterfly catcher perfectly encapsulates the pursuit of new pieces to add to a collection.





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70th anniversary of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee (RMAC), John Lobban

A favourite amongst Royal Mint Museum staff, John Lobban uses the lion and unicorn from the Royal Arms to mark 70 years of the RMAC, the body which presides over all United Kingdom coin and medal designs.



Glossary



Obverse – side which bears the more significant design.



Reverse – the opposite side to the obverse, derived from the Latin *revertere* which means to turn over.

Glossary



Casting – refers to the process of pouring molten metal into moulds to create the final piece.



Striking – the medal is created by striking the blank disc between two tools, or dies, which have the design engraved upon them.

Glossary



Relief – elements of the design raised high above the surface of the medal.



Toning – an effect applied to the design to give the piece a matte finish.



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