



Gerd Rothmann

After studying in Germany, Laura and Stefan landed in Providence where they lived for two years while working in the jewelry industry and searching for the right place to call 'Home'. In early 2001 an exhibition titled *A View By Two* came to the RISD Museum, featuring several of the world's leading jewelers, and among them was Gerd Rothmann. At an accompanying symposium, Laura and Stefan met Rothmann.

After several months had passed from the exhibition, Stefan reached out to Gerd and asked him to make their wedding bands. Fortuitously, this request also coincided with Stefan and Laura's initial process of buying a building in Hudson, NY, where they planned to relocate and set up a studio/gallery. When the wedding bands were completed Stefan discussed his plan to open a contemporary jewelry gallery in Hudson with Gerd. Rothmann, looking back, described his initial thoughts on the matter, "I wasn't very enthusiastic, but I gave a gold necklace to exhibit for a year. To my surprise the expensive piece was sold. Later they explained to me that this sales success was decisive for the move away from Ornamantum being a studio, to becoming a serious gallery." This necklace was acquired by the Donna Schneier Collection and now finds itself in the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum.