



**JOHANNA ZELLMER, PAKEHA, NZ EUROPEAN, GERMAN**

Title: "Altius – Fortius – Citius" Materials: Silver and metal, Price: € 1375,-

The jewellery work "Altius – Fortius – Citius" consists of a series of miniature landscape structures with a single eagle rising above them like a phoenix rising out of the ashes. The entire work consists of a complete set of 43 cut and forged 10DM "Gedenkmuenzen", some of which were given to me by my parents. The coins portray a particular period of German history and were minted from 1972-2001. They provided a rich starting point to examine issues of commerce, regulations and national identity – all wrapped up in malleable silver alloy. The process of cutting and forging these commemorative coins was an experience that encouraged me to reflect on my ambivalence towards my cultural heritage and its religious structures, the many ways in which German culture has manifested itself in different historical situations and places. By cutting out the eagles, the faces and figures on the other side become cropped and contorted. Meanwhile, the forged metal from the perimeter creates wild and windswept landscapes, which, however, are immediately constrained in austere black boxes inspired by those used by numismatists.

