# I Loved So Well

Charlotte Saint Cullen

I Loved So Well is still being developed.
This portfolio presents exhibited works and select workshop developments.
I welcome enquiries for studio visits at charlottesaintcullen@gmail.com

# CHARLOTTE SAINT CULLEN



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*I Loved So Well* is the current series I am working on. This includes new techniques in metal work, stained-glass, stone carving and ornamentation and follows on from previous series ‘She’s the Arrow’, ‘Study for a Shield After Battle’ and ‘Retreat of the Warrior’. The title is taken from the Derry song ‘The Town I Loved So Well’, which speaks to loss and to love for a people and place changed my colonial violence and war. Informed by my own family’s connections to Derry, and to faith within my community, the work has developed as a kind of momento mori. Recognising grief, while painful, speaks to love, history and community. In this way the works express love as an action; to endure, to resist, to hope, to remain in relation to one another when everything appears to be breaking apart; and to loss through a reverence for meaning and a collapsing of duality of experience; tension/release, hope/fear, care/violence, life/death. Or, in response to Cher, I do believe in life after love, I really do think I’m strong enough now.

I see love in this instance as an act of resistance which refuses to be forgotten, as well as something both innate and actioned. I have melted down metal with a plasma cutter, bastardising the tool to over work areas. Through this process the metal is changed and becomes something stronger but more brittle. The materials transformation and the process through which it is transformed become an embodiment of the action of love I aim to articulate. Within the latticing created through this process – the works weakest points – I have included ornamentation including inserting faux pearl earrings, a literal piercing of the sculptures. This ornamentation is a vulnerable material reminder of the way ordinary materials become imbued with meaning, and a way to hold on to beauty in the face of destruction.



I Loved So Well
Exhibited in St John the Evangelist Chapel, York St John university campus
2026



I Loved So well (lamp lighter)
Exhibited at the Gravensteen, Leiden University
As part of Necromancer conference 2026



I Loved So well (lamp lighter)
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Photos: Bethan Hughes



I Loved So Well (Like a kind of Prayer) .2026
Mild steel, silver hoop earrings, stone 180 x 80 x 80cm

I Loved So Well (After The Garden) .2026
Mild steel, stained glass, lead, crystal glassware, seasonal flowers
100 x 150 x 100 cm





I Loved So Well (Like a kind of Prayer) .2026
Mild steel, silver hoop earrings, stone 180 x 80 x 80cm



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Mild steel, stained glass, lead, crystal glassware, seasonal flowers
100 x 150 x 100 cm



(After The Garden)(fragment) I .2026
Stained-glass, lead
8 x 10 x 1cm





(After The Garden)(fragment) II .2026
Stained-glass, lead
8 x 10 x 1cm

(After The Garden)(fragment) III .2026
Stained-glass, lead
8 x 10 x 1cm





I Loved So Well (Two Lovers to Rest) .2026
Mild steel, pearl earrings
150x90x30cm

I Loved So Well (Two Lovers to Rest) .2026
Mild steel, pearl earrings
150x90x30cm

















Untitled 2026





I Loved So Well (I wish I could keep you safe) I, II .2026
Mild steel, pearl earrings, candle



I Loved So Well (To L, thinking of you) .2026
Mild steel, crystal glassware, flower, water
65x40x50cm



I Loved So Well (To L, sincerely) .2026
Mild steel, faux pearl earrings
30x25x20cm



*Bríde* .2026
Charlotte Saint Cullen

Mild steel, silver, pearl, clear lacquer
35 x 12 x 8cm
Dimensions vary across edition

Edition of 6 +1AP

Created for Le Fhéile Bríde gathering on the closing of *A Mean Thing* at North Bar Leeds as an ode to the St Brigid's day tradition of hanging a Bríde cloth outside for protection.

The Irish goddess, and Saint, Brigid – likely a Christianisation of the Celtic goddess, is patroness of poetry, learning, healing, protection, blacksmithing, livestock and dairy products. It may be this connection to live stock and the land of Ireland that led Brigid to be connected to the festival of spring. Her miracles include a cape which grew to the entirety of the county of Kildare when told by male stewards she could have the land her cape covered to set up a monastery for women, and performing an abortion for a nun. St Brigid also had an anamcara – a soul love of the same sex – potentially a left over of a multi headed goddess during her Christianisation, but also, canonically making her a queer saint. It is in these slippages I find space to outstretch and find meaning. In futile attempts to communicate and better know past lives, fabrication can create new ground to create.

On Imbolc and St Brigid's day people celebrate by making the St Brigid cross with reeds and, my personal favourite, leaving a bride cloth outside the home – a piece of fabric left outside overnight which is said to be kissed by Brigid and imbued with healing properties for the year ahead. With her connection to healing, protection and blacksmithing she is a saint I turn to and in whom I hope my work speaks. Titled using the Irish spelling, which I admittedly cannot read or speak, but I return to as a source of power, using it feels like a protection spell. Ancestors allowing me access their knowledge.




Sharp Edges at Threshold, Leeds with Bijan Amini-Alavijeh and Ian Jackson, curated by Julia McKinlay 2025 photo credit Jules  Lister



I Loved So Well (I’m Lost But I’m Hopeful) .2025
Mild steel, faux pearl earrings, stone, clear lacquer
In Sharp Edges at Threshold, Leeds. Photo credit: Jules Lister

Sharp Edges at Threshold, Leeds with Bijan Amini-Alavijeh and Ian Jackson, curated by Julia McKinlay 2025 photo credit Jules  Lister





I Loved So Well (I Believe in Life After Love) .2025
Mild steel, faux pearl earrings, fresh flowers, clear lacquer. In Sharp Edges at Threshold, Leeds. Photo credit: Jules Lister









Detail:
I Loved So Well (I’m Lost But I’m Hopeful) .2025
I Loved So Well (I Believe in Life After Love) .2025
Photo credit: Jules Lister





[studio development]



**Threshold Edition #7**

*I loved so well (I wrote you a love song)* .2025
Charlotte Saint Cullen

Edition of 8 +1AP

Available with:
https://thresholdsculpture.space/Threshold-Edition-7-Charlotte-Saint-Cullen-I-loved-so-well

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