

GLASS SOUL / PIETAS The return of funerary sculpture

The Soul of Glass collection opened its first exhibition at UPM, which will last from 18.5. until 17.9.23. A total of 21 leading Czech artists from various disciplines presented their concepts of molten sculpture presented in memorial boxes. These are traditionally used to hold the ashes of the deceased, but they can also serve as beautiful pieces of art to keep the memory of a loved one in your home. In glass sculptures, you can store not only the ashes of the deceased but also, for example, their letters, jewelry, or other objects to which your memories are attached. Objects can travel with you, moving like "mobile tombs, reverential altars".

Vladimíra Klumpar-Pavlík, Federiko Díaz, Martin Janecký, Petr Písařík, Alžběta Jungrová, Zdeněk Fránek, Tono Stano, Zdeněk Lhotský, Marek Číhal, Epos 257, Vladimír 518, Michal Škapa, Filip Kůrka, Matyáš Pavlík, Michal Cimala, Jakub Janovský, Antonín Střížek, Natalie Dufková, Jiří Belda, Viktorie Beldová, and Lucie Švitorková will show you that, overall, funeral urns can be something more than just a container for ashes; they can serve as beautiful and meaningful art objects that keep the memory of your loved one alive. By incorporating them into your home, you can create a space that honors and celebrates a loved one's life and provides comfort and peace in the midst of grief.

The exhibition of 21 artistic works in glass entitled Soul of Glass / Pietas / The return of funerary sculpture represents the first results of the project initiated and realized by the company Glaz Bridge. The collection includes works by artists who have reflected on the function of funerary sculpture in today's society.

The intention of Martina Sikorová, the author of the project, was to present the most diverse mosaic of approaches to this topic. Therefore, artists of different ages and diverse professional experience were approached for the realization of the project, whether it was glassmaking, sculpture, painting, architecture, jewelry, photography, fashion design, or architecture. As they penetrate into other fields, they reveal more of another property of art: the ability to bring together different media of expression and break the boundaries between stereotypes with imagination.

"When choosing the authors, I proceeded step by step; the collection was thus completed, supplemented, grouped, and graded. Glass material and the unique technology of melting glass into a form were chosen as the starting point for the realization, the tradition of which was founded by the world-famous artistic duo Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová. We are witnessing the story of how traditional cast sculpture in dialogue with metal, minerals, and jewelry techniques becomes a new artefact and acquires additional meanings," says Martina Sikorová.

It is no coincidence that the works were created in Czech glass studios whose reputation is recognized worldwide: the oldest studio of fused sculpture in Železný Brod (Studio Lhotský s.r.o.), Janecký studio s.r.o. (Prague), and jewelry company Belda spol. s.r.o. The Klumpar studio (Železný Brod) led by Vladimíra Klumpar-Pavlik, who also applies ideas inspired by her long-term stay in the USA, provided fundamental support for the idea of the project. The owners of the glass studios not only offered the glassworks for implementation, but as active artists and educators they themselves became the creators of a number of exhibited artefacts.

"The passing of a loved one is a difficult and emotional time, but keeping a memory of them can provide comfort and reassurance. Incorporating a glass sculpture into your home decor can also be a way to celebrate the life and passions of your loved one. Perhaps he was an avid nature lover, and you choose a vessel decorated with delicate floral designs. Or he loved the ocean, and you choose one that reflects the beauty, color, and power of the sea. Choosing can be a deeply personal experience as you search for a vessel that reflects your loved one's unique personality and spirit. By having a memorial vessel at home, you not only preserve the memory of your loved one, but also create a lasting legacy for future generations. It can serve as a reminder of the impact they have had on your life and the lives of other people who have

enriched your life. However, you can also buy a glass sculpture for yourself. Preparing and planning your own funeral has a deep tradition in many cultures. The company then has clear rules- there will be no disagreements or failure to fulfill our wishes when saying goodbye; therefore, just like planning our own will or wedding, we can also prepare and plan our own funeral. An art object is one of the most stable investments, which means that we value the property with dignity for future generations and at the same time contribute to peace in the family and a clear solution..." adds Martina Sikorová.

The collection is complete and there is already interest in exhibiting it outside the borders of our country. Individual objects can be purchased as part of a custom production from a few hundred thousand crowns to millions, depending on the demands and requirements of the client. Glaz Bridge provides complete services related to the production of work with artists as well as subsequent service.

You can download the press release and photo previews here:

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