

- ) **Exhibition**
- ) **Glass Soul / Pietas. The Return of Funerary Sculpture**
- ) **Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, 18. 5. – 17. 9. 2023**

**Curator:** Martina Sikorová

**Professional guarantor:** Sylva Petrová

**Exhibition design:** Dušan Seidl

**Graphic design:** OKOLO

**Photography of objects:** Gabriel Urbánek

The association Glaz Bridge works to draw attention to the situation we now witness not only in the retreat from funeral ritual but equally the decline in funerary art, which has almost vanished in the years after World War II. For this reason, the association is presenting at the current exhibition its first project, a collection of burial urns using as their primary material glass, which until now has remained outside of the attention of creators of funerary sculpture.

For this project, the curator turned to twenty-three artists of different ages and professional experience, whether in glassworking, sculpture, painting, architecture, jewellery arts, or photography. Hence the list of names includes such prominent glass artists as Zdeněk Lhotský, Martin Janecký alongside, for instance, photographer Tono Stano, jewellery artist Jiří Belda, fashion designer Natálie Dufková or painter Antonín Střížek. It was the intention of the project author, Martina Sikorová, to present the most variegated mosaic of approaches to the theme.

“We are witnesses to a story in which traditional molten-glass sculpture, in a dialogue with metals, minerals, and jewellery techniques, is emerging as a new artifact and acquiring further significance. All this is subordinated to a single aim: creating a functional funerary object and using artistic means to express an homage for the departed”, says curator Martina Sikorová.

These works were executed in prominent Czech glassworking studios with worldwide reputations: Studio Lhotský s.r.o., the studio for glass sculpture in Železný Brod with the longest tradition, Janecký studio s.r.o. in Prague, or the jewellery firm Belda spol. s.r.o. Major support for the project idea was offered by Atelier Klumpar in Železný Brod, above all its head Vladěna Klumpar-Pavlik, who makes use of inspiration gained during her many years in the USA. The owners of these glass studios not only provided their glass furnaces for the realisations but, as active artists and pedagogues, themselves contributed as creators to the series of exhibited artefacts.

**Guided tours: 23. 5., 6. 6., 12. 9. 2023 always at 6:00 p.m.**

Further information on the exhibition GLASS SOUL, the project GLAZ BRIDGE and FUNERAL SYMPOSIUM 2023 is available at: [www.glazbridge.com](http://www.glazbridge.com).

*The press release and photography thumbnails are available for download at:*

<http://pr.upm.cz>

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