

The urns from the Glass Soul exhibition are headed to their private customers and to world exhibition halls

Prague 25.9.23-After the end of "Glass Soul", one of the most successful exhibitions in the Museum of Applied Arts, the first object found its owner. The work will go to the family of Roman Dušek, founder of the Signal festival and head of the audiovisual section at the National Theatre, who tragically passed away recently. For other works, private customers and art collectors can purchase a second to fifth copy of the urn. Over 14,000 visitors saw the exhibition "The return of the funeral sculpture PIETAS" and the collection is demanded by other galleries and exhibition spaces not only at home, but also abroad. Currently, it is also being loaned to Japan. The entire existing collection will be recorded in an extensive printed publication that is currently being created called *The Glass Soul*, which also documents the world's departure rituals, a funeral dictionary, and handicrafts associated with the collection.

The public funerary art competition Open Call, Vol. II was announced by Glaz Bridge on September 12 for the creation of contemporary funeral stelae and tombstones for interior and exterior. Mandatory materials are again glass, stone, metal, or concrete. The exhibition of the selected twelve winning objects and the resulting second collection of the Glaz Bridge project will take place in the summer of 2024, partly again in the Museum of Applied Arts. The first registered author has already been declassified - she is the acclaimed painter Lucie Jindrák Skřivanová.

Exhibition "Glass Soul"

The return of the funeral sculpture "PIETAS" presented the work of a total of 21 authors from various artistic fields, who created sculpture-fused glass sculptures, presented in memorial boxes. The client was the company Glaz Bridge, which deals with the custom production of artistic funeral objects.

The exhibition thus showed visitors that a funeral urn can be something more than just a container for ashes- it can serve as a beautiful and meaningful art object that keeps the memory of a loved one alive. By incorporating it 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. Those interested at home and abroad can take a look under the hood of production into the studios and take a guided tour by using a documentary on the Glaz Bridge YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@GlazBridge>

The invited authors for the first cycle were **Vladimíra Klumpar-Pavlik** (sculptor, glassblower), **Federiko Díaz** (sculptor working with robotics, multimedia artist), **Martin Janecký** (sculptor, glassblower), **Petr Písařík** (painter, sculptor), **Alžběta Jungrová** (photographer), **Zdeněk Fránek** (architect), **Tono Stano** (photographer), **Zdeněk Lhotský** (glass maker, sculptor, artist, graphic artist), **Marek Číhal** (painter), **Epos 257** (conceptual artist), **Vladimir 518** (rapper, painter, typographer, writer), **Michal Škapa** (painter, graphic artist, typographer, designer), **Filip Kůrka** (painter), **Matyas Pavlik** (glazier), **Michal Cimala** (sculptor, painter, and musician), **Jakub Janovský** (painter and sculptor), **Antonín Střížek** (painter, photographer), **Natalie Dufková** (fashion designer), **Jiří Belda** (jeweler, sculptor), **Viktorie Beldová** (jeweler), and **Lucie Švitorková** (glass maker).

The works were created in Czech glass studios whose reputation is recognized worldwide: 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, and the oldest fused sculpture studio in Železný Brod (Studio Lhotský s.r.o.) provided fundamental support for the idea of the project together with important world-class painters and photographers. 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 first exhibition took place with the kind support of the Museum of Applied Arts in Prague, and attracted the attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will continue to travel abroad. Individual works can also be purchased from Glaz Bridge on their website at www.glazbridge.com.

The entire collection will be recorded in an extensive publication-book called *Skleněná duše*, which is currently being created and will contain photographs of individual works, a description of their creation, and commentary from the authors. In addition, it will be supplemented with a funeral dictionary and departure rituals from around the world. The book will be created with the support of the Arte Bohemien Endowment Fund, which was founded to support creative activity and non-commercial projects in the fields of fine arts, literature, and educational activities.

Martina Sikorová, founder of Glaz Bridge and owner of the collection, adds to the entire project:

"After the New Year, the nine-member panel will select the works, which will then be realized and exhibited with the support of partners. This will create a second collection connecting funeral themes with high art. In the first exhibited collection, we also included a work that will go to the family of my late friend Roman Dušek, founder of the Signal festival and head of the audiovisual section at the National Theatre, who tragically died recently. Together with Michal Cimala, I therefore decided to produce a piece dedicated to Roman's mother. She visited the exhibition and will take over the urn and store it at home. It is the first object that has found its place."

Lucie Jindrák Skřivánková, who is participating in the second phase of the project, says: *"I am participating in the Glaz Bridge project because I enjoy discovering and working with new materials in my work. And glass is a very fascinating medium for me, as is the idea of a spatial object. I have been toying with the idea of taking my work into space for a long time, and this Open Call could open the way for me to explore and work on a spatial object."*

Martina Sikorová is also one of the founders of the Arte Bohemien Endowment Fund. She comments on her work: *"Through the foundation for the support of artists, we try to support artistically demanding projects that are aimed at narrower circles of viewers and whose need for support is greater than for creations that belong to the artistic mainstream."* Every year, the Endowment Fund publicly announces the program, and several expert independent commissions evaluate the received applications and documents for awarding scholarships or grants in individual fields in the selection process.

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