

VESSEL GALLERY

LONDON



Yorgos Papadopoulos (1969 -)

Neon Pink

Circa: 2010

2010

United Kingdom

Glass

105 x 70 cm (41³/₄ x 27¹/₄ inches)

Inspired by the most holy representations of the Orthodox religion, architectural glass artist Yorgos Papadopoulos has created intriguing, challenging versions of the Madonna, Jesus and Saints. Made from carefully controlled shattered glass that has been re-laminated, these unique canvases depict archetypal images in a wholly new and relevant way, from the electrifying neon pink Madonna to a serene Saint George. This is a ceiling or wall hanging artwork that can also be framed. Can also be incorporated into the fabric of an interior. The dark image shows 'Neon Pink Madonna' in the dark under UV light.

Using a pioneering technique he developed at the Royal College of Art, Yorgos combines pigments and shattered sheets of industrial glass which he then re-laminates them to create architectural-scale artworks that look fragile but are extremely durable.

'Glass is my canvas, hammers are my brushes,' says Papadopoulos. His ability to exploit and harness accident has informed his entire working practice. His architectural panels and sculptures create a stunning focus in contemporary modern spaces, the contrast between the unpredictable movement of fracture and the clean lines of contemporary architecture excite the eye.

Literature:

Unique

Artist description:

Yorgos Papadopoulos initially studied as an interior designer at Middlesex University changing to a Ceramics Diploma at the City Lit in London. Whilst studying for his MA in ceramics at the RCA, Papadopoulos became drawn to the glass studios and after an incident where a sheet of industrial glass was broken, he became seduced by the material's contradictory qualities. Excited by what is normally viewed as a bad outcome in the glass community he spent the rest of his MA experimenting with and breaking glass.

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His modern 'Icons' series subverts the classic language of devoted religious painting and interprets it with the eyes of western visual tradition. Papadopoulos has also reworked the iconic 'Evil Eye' amulet with his 'Stratified Jewels Collection'. Taking this simple composition as a starting point, the scale is blown up and the colours completely reworked. It is the marriage of two seemingly opposing ideologies that mirror Papadopoulos' own experience as a Cypriot growing up in the UK.

Papadopoulos' work is represented in private collections globally and public collections including; Eskishihir Glass Museum, Eskishihir (Turkey), Derix Glass Studio Taunusstein (Germany) and British Airways Art Collection - Heathrow T4 (UK). He is the author of the A&C Black book Glass Lamination.

Most recent and most notably, he was awarded 1st Prize at the European Glass Context 2021. The corresponding exhibition was held at Bornholm Kunstmuseum.