

# VESSEL GALLERY

LONDON



**Elliot Walker (1988 - )**

## **Better Off Dead**

Circa: 2019

2019

United Kingdom

Glass

40 x 64 x 27 cm (15<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 25<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches)

'Better Off Dead' is an audacious hot sculpted artwork by the British artist, Elliot Walker.

The perfectly balanced arrow can be removed for transportation, yet when in place, it literally passes through the core of the apple. Appearing as if aimed, shot and finally piercing the glistening fruit, yet held static in this frozen moment.

Combining exceptional glass making skills with a novelist's ability for storytelling, Walker literally sculpts his glass, creating artworks that are the essence of curiosity, inviting the viewer closer.

His Still Life compositions have the poise of classical paintings. Symbols of domestic life are carefully balanced with the transient. Luscious exotic fruits and foods are bisected revealing their richly coloured interiors, these will never decay but are permanently held in this fleeting moment.

The artist can also create pieces to commission, please contact the gallery for further information.

## **Literature:**

Unique

### **Artist description:**

Elliot Walker is one of the UK's finest glass artists and in his relatively short glass blowing career, has already become one of the most active and inspiring artists of his generation. After graduating in psychology from Bangor University, a daring decision saw Walker decide to pursue his creative interests instead.

With its vast spectrum of colour, texture and ability to mimic other materials, glass provides the ultimate palette for Walker to create his three-dimensional compositions and sculptures. As one of a handful of glassblowers in the world to focus solely on a technique called 'Massello', it takes extreme dexterity, speed and precise temperature control to sculpt and master the molten glass. Walker finds his medium captivating and challenging in equal measure; its immediacy and the intense relationship of working with it in its fluid state.

In his own words;

"The process of coaxing a complex form out of the liquid glass is unlike working with any other material. The pieces are not cast, carved or ground into shape, but modelled from a cooling liquid so that until the very last second the sculpture is a moving living entity, frozen in time as the glass sets"

As a psychology graduate, Walker approaches his making from many unorthodox directions, it is this ability to defy convention, to purposefully twist the viewer's perception, that has made his works so truly unique, instantly recognisable and highly sought after. In many ways his initial studies have remained a constant and continue to inform his artworks; each being aesthetically sensitive, crafted with exceptional skill and brought to life with a novelist's ability for storytelling.

After gaining a Masters Degree in Applied Arts from Wolverhampton University, Walker was awarded the Frederic Stuart Memorial Fund by the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers. He has exhibited extensively within the UK with his work represented within the Broadfield House Museum collections. His 'Uranium Requiem' artwork from his Half-Life collection resides within the permanent collections of Mus Verre Museum, France.

Most notably, Walker won the 2nd series of the Netflix programme Blown Away, being named "The Best in Glass" for 2021. Having beaten hundreds of many hugely talented hopefuls (artists for the first time selected from around the globe) to appear as one of the 10 contestants, Walker captivated with his sharp focus, wry humour, expansive imagination and relentless dedication throughout, making him the clear winner from the start.