

# V e s s e l



**Cathryn Shilling (1957 - )**

## **Dissonance IX**

Circa: 2019

2019

United Kingdom

Glass

46.5 x 40 x 15 cm (18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 15<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches)

Shilling experiments with layering and fusing glass to produce beautiful one off sculptures. Her innovative pieces push the material beyond our usual comfort zones. Glass rods are woven together like fabric, mimicking the flexibility and movement of cloth. The apparent frailty of the glass is balanced by the strong dynamic forms and differing levels of light pick out the various strands making up each unique piece.

In the artist's own words;

"Human interaction, interplay and movement are at the core of this work, derived from reality, performance and the infinite nuances between those two states. Often the face we show to the outside world is a mask but the language of the body is very difficult thing to regulate and our true nature is often revealed. For this work I used thick, clear glass canes, pushing the material beyond its accepted technical parameters in order to explore the relationship between fabric and the human form and how it reflects our moods and emotional situation

## **Literature:**

Unique

## **Artist description:**

Cathryn Shilling began her arts career as a graphic designer but went on to study glass after moving to Connecticut with her family. On returning to the UK she studied kiln formed glass at Kensington and Chelsea College and blown glass with Peter Layton at the London Glassblowing Workshop. She set up studio in London in 2007 from where she has gone on to create a huge body and variety of work.

Shilling experiments with colour and technique to produce beautiful one off sculptures. Her innovative pieces push the glass beyond our usual comfort zones. With some sculptures, glass rods are woven

together like fabric, mimicking the flexibility and movement of cloth. The apparent frailty of the glass is balanced by the strong dynamic forms, differing levels of light picking out layers of colour. With other works, bubbles are trapped in swathes of watery hues. Her colour palette and choice of forms are very much informed by the various natural states in which water is found: icebergs, waterfalls and whirlpools for example.

Shilling's work is shown and represented in collections globally. She was winner of the V&A's 'Inspired By' award for glass in 2009.