

# V e s s e l



**Cathryn Shilling (1957 - )**

## **The Fleeting Nature of Earthly Pleasures with Peaches**

Circa: 2019

2019

United Kingdom

Glass

23 x 45 x 45 cm (9 x 17<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches)

A Collaboration with Anthony Scala.

Kiln formed glass cane with hot sculpted glass fruit and flame worked beetles on a ceramic base.  
Comes with a black glass base, which is not shown that is 45cm x 45cm.

In the artist's own words;

"When we considered this piece we decided to approach it in a similar way to that of the 17th century Dutch Still Life painters. The artists produced paintings in muted colour that laid bare the elements, giving them an opportunity to display their skill. Also, the paintings were often of the Vanitas theme - containing a moralistic message about the brevity of life. Our approach was therefore to remove flamboyant colour thus allowing the viewer to focus on the individual elements. From the complexity and structure of the kiln formed woven bowl, to the sensuality and form of the hot sculpted fruit. The inclusion of the stag beetles adds a bitter-sweet message to this Vanitas piece. Symbolizing both the rebirth of the soul and the ephemeral nature of life

### **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.