



Nina Casson McGarva (1990 -)

Curled Over

Cast Glass

29 x 41 x 22 cm (11 ³/₈ x 16 ¹/₈ x 8 ⁵/₈ inches)

Born in Gloucester in England, Nina Casson McGarva grew up in rural central France in the middle of the Burgundy countryside. Surrounded by a family of creatives & makers and growing up in an environment full of nature and craft, has definitely influenced her life and art work.

In her own words;

“The starting point in my work is nature. I take a detail of an element I find in nature and use it as an inspirational base to create my own abstraction, that then builds into a complex sculpture. My inspiration comes from cycles of nature that I associate with glass because to me the material goes through a cycle and is at it's most alive when it's hot and being transformed. The end result is solid and doesn't move any longer, it is at the fragile time before disintegration and maintains a dynamic form and rich structures such as dry leaves, feathers or sea shells. In the making process I shape it hot in an open kiln until the glass stops moving. When the glass transforms to be a solid, the piece is finished”

Artist description:

Born in Gloucester in England, Nina Casson McGarva grew up in rural central France in the middle of the Burgundy countryside. Surrounded by a family of creatives & makers and growing up in an environment full of nature and craft, definitely influenced her life and artwork.

In her own words:

“The starting point in my work is nature and the details to be within various natural subject matter. Using this as my inspirational base I then abstract the forms found, building them into my own complex sculptures. I am particularly inspired by the cycles found in nature, as I see parallels with glass, as the material goes through a cycle, being most alive when hot and capable of transformation. By contrast, once cooled it is solid and fixed, no longer fluid and capable of movement.

There is a fragile moment in time that can be found in rich structures such as skeletal dry leaves, discarded feathers and weather-worn sea shells, to me these are dynamic forms that I aim to emulate.

As part of my making process, I shape my glass whilst hot in an open kiln, there is a narrow window of time for me to work, before the glass becomes too cooled and will no longer move. Once solid and cold, the glass is transformed into the finished piece.”

McGarva trained, learning the basic technical skills of glass blowing, at the Ecole Nationale du Verre Jean Monnet (a technical college for workers in crystal glass factories) and at the Glass and Ceramics Workshop on Bornholm (part of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts) where she started to use other glass techniques such as casting, fusing and experimenting with several new processes. Since graduating in 2014, McGarva has been on three notable Artist residency programs;

Shin-nagata glass residence Kobe, Japan (2019) | Eair Program at Pilchuck Glass school in Stanwood, WA, USA (2015) | Starworks in Star, NC, USA (2014)

Casson McGarva has shown her work throughout Europe and in the USA. Most recently, she was selected as one of 60 artworks for the Toyama International 2024 Glass Exhibition.