

VESSEL GALLERY

LONDON



Katrin Spranger

Aquatopia Water Storage

Handblown glass with copper and limescale
35 x 31 x 22 cm (13 ³/₁₆ x 12 ¹/₁₆ x 8 ⁵/₁₆ inches)

Aquatopia takes a critical view on our fresh water supplies, its increasing demand and pollution. In the UK, we may not recognise the urgency to rethink water consumption, yet our choices in food, materials and lifestyle tie into a global issue of increasing water scarcity. According to the United Nations, two-thirds of the world's population will face water shortages by 2025.

In the dystopian narrative of Aquatopia, pure water is on the verge of depletion and the precious resource is venerated by keeping consumption and waste to the bare minimum.

Inspired by traditional water systems, the Aquatopia objects were created as futuristic and reimagined drinking vessels, scooping bowls, storages and shower funnels that engage original plumbing parts and laboratory found objects. Made of copper and glass, materials traditionally used for transporting and storing water, the craft objects straddle the line between function, imagined function and aesthetic quality. All pieces were produced via the electroforming technique, a process in which a layer of copper is deposited on a surface that was made conductive. Decorative, plant-like growth formations on each vessel symbolise that life is completely depended on water.

Artist description:

Katrin Spranger is an activist and visual artist working with sculpture, jewellery and performance. She creates dystopian narratives that engage with the environment, consumer culture, science fiction and natural resources threatened with depletion.

Past practice has included the development of crude oil into jewellery that melts on the body as well as

the 3D-printing of honey into edible art. Forging different experiences for viewer and wearer, Spranger's interactive pieces comprise permanent and deteriorative elements that critique societal norms of beauty and value.

Spranger's most recent work Aquatopia adopts a critical view of our fresh water supply, its increasing demand and pollution. Inspired by traditional water systems, the futuristic Aquatopia objects reappropriate original plumbing parts and laboratory found objects in order to reimagine familiar drinking vessels, scooping bowls, faucets and storages, including a bath tub. Made from copper and glass – traditionally associated with the transport and storage of water – the Aquatopia objects are produced via electroforming: a process in which a layer of copper is deposited on a conductive surface. Decorative, plant-like formations on each vessel reflect life's dependency on water.

With a background in traditional goldsmithing, Spranger holds a Master of Fine Arts from Konstfack University, Stockholm. She is a co-founder and director of the K2 Academy of Contemporary Jewellery and teaches art and design qualifications in London.