

VESSEL GALLERY

LONDON



Louis Thompson (United Kingdom 1965 -)

Seven Stages of Degradation

Handblown glass with found plastic

32 x 80 x 12 cm (12 ⁵/₈ x 31 ¹/₂ x 4 ³/₄ inches)

'Seven Stages of Degradation' is a unique artwork highlighting the current serious issue of ocean plastic created in collaboration by Louis Thompson & Sophie Thomas. Although not essentially about its dramatic harmful effect on the sea's inhabitants and environment, this artwork focuses on the prolonged duration for which it can exist within these vital waters.

Sophie Thomas is a highly respected and established leader in creative campaigning and communication design, Thomas' long-term interest in sustainability and materials has led to her sharing her experience of closed-loop thinking with other designers. In 2012 she founded The Great Recovery, a programme to highlight understanding of circular design in the materials supply chain, through practical exploration, i.e. tearing things apart and re-designing them. This programme is now running through the [RSA](#).

Constantly questioning the role and influence of design, Thomas is a prominent voice in the promotion of sustainable thinking through design education and business. Alongside her own investigations to highlight the plight of ocean pollution, she works with the charity Common Seas to encourage the design community to find design solutions that work towards eliminating plastic from the seas.

Thomas is the founding director of 'Thomas.Matthews', an award-winning communication design agency creating work that has sustainability at its heart.

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

Artist description:

Accomplished glass artist Louis Thompson explores illusion and the perceptions of glass, fascinated by the haptic experience in art and sculpture. He works with molten glass, sometimes sabotaging the material: twisting, creasing, buckling and collapsing the glass. The works have underlying themes of the human body; sensuous, tactile, echoing folds, curves and creases. With simplicity and purity of materials, he plays with the viewers' comprehension of what is put before them, often creating collections of objects where the dialogue and relationship between each element is as essential as the collective composition.

In his own words;

'My work is concerned with ideas of repetition, sequence and multiples. This stems from a fascination with the idea of collections: multiples that record and archive history from medical apparatus to the scientific aesthetic of research and inquiry. My glass works examine material volume, weight, and ambiguity, are they solid or liquid, full or empty? My pieces pose questions about the material and the idea of function, playing with the viewers' perception to examine what is real and not real.'

Thompson has exhibited extensively in the UK, Europe, USA and Japan. In 2012 Thompson received two prestigious awards in the UK: British Glass Biennale Winner and the Jerwood Foundation Makers Commission. He has been invited to create installations for various museums and international exhibitions and his work is held in permanent museum collections in Belgium, Germany, Japan, Czech Republic, the USA and the V&A Museum in London. Thompson has completed International residencies at the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, The Glazenhuis Museum in Belgium and most recently at Soneva Art Glass in the Maldives.