

V e s s e l



Fredrik Nielsen (Sweden 1977 -)

I was S

Handblown and sculpted glass
51 x 39 x 26 cm (20 ¹/₄ x 15 ³/₄ x 10 ¹/₄ inches)

'I was S' is a unique glass artwork by the Swedish artist, Fredrik Nielsen.

Predominantly experimental, Nielsen's artworks are made in defiance of what is perceived as perfect. Weighty yet spontaneous, his creations carry marks, almost scars, that are inflicted during their making. What may appear rough and unfinished remain as part of the final piece. The intention is to not abuse his glass but to take it to its limits, questioning the role of the artist and how these pieces sit within the world of art and craft.

Neilsen first studied glass at the Orrefors Glass School in Sweden and then went on to the Pilchuch Glass School in Washington and the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm. He has also been the Artist-in-Residence at the Corning Museum of Glass, in the USA.

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Neilsen has also incorporated live music and acrobatics whilst sculpting his glass to explore new ideas and ways of bringing his glass ideas to fruition. Inspiration comes from an array of popular cultures: music, videos, performance and graffiti, the latter literally informing his glass with the use of car paint. The kinetic energy that is used to control and form the hot glass is recaptured by the artist in the fleeting moment of spraying the surface, an act of essentially reclaiming the glass after it has cooled and change colour of its own accord. The paint not only unifies and homogenises the exterior but also acts to smooth out and soften the torn and broken edges, these may become less imperfect but they are still

very much moments of the haphazard.

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