

V e s s e l



Samantha Donaldson (United Kingdom 1987 -)

Vug in Soft Orange and Purple

Vug in Soft Orange and Purple is a unique handblown sculpture by the British artist Samantha Donaldson.

Created by layers of coloured glass in orange and purple, the transparent colours merge and create further hues throughout the piece. An additional optical illusion is also created as these are not solid pieces, hidden within, is a small, hallow interior space.

These require intense making from the initial blowing to create the amorphic form, through to the laborious cold work working and cutting, to literally slice a section of the piece away and then polish the revealed surface.

Inspired by the internal structures of naturally occurring geodes, it was during these investigations that Donaldson created a series of works influenced by the exploration of the 'vug', which is the internal space within a geode. A continuous theme to her work, the aim being, to draw the viewer into the internal movement of each unique piece.

Artist description:

Samantha Donaldson is a contemporary glass artist specialising in hot and cold glass techniques. Having graduated from De Montfort University in 2009 with a First Class BA Honours Degree in Design Crafts, continuing her time at De Montford as an artist in residency, Donaldson went on to study her Masters at the Royal College of Art in 2012.

Throughout her studies, with the early exploration in to other materials, Donaldson was continually drawn back into the glass workshops, resulting in a deep fascination with glass, the beginning of her artistic exploration and long term commitment to her chosen material.

Having initially developed a body of one-off sculptural free blown glass forms, realising the potential of using glass in an expressive and imaginative way, Donaldson continued to sculpt her glass to create

mesmerising pieces, exploiting the hot blown glass to create layers of colours, which are then revealed through to extensive cutting and polishing.

Inspired by the internal structures of naturally occurring geodes, it was during these investigations that Donaldson created a series of work influenced by the exploration of the 'vug', which is the internal space within a geode. A continuous theme to her work, the aim being to draw the viewer into the internal movement of each unique piece.

In her own words:

“Rock collections fascinate me. I am particularly interested in ‘Lapidaries’, the professional craftsmen that became skilled at cutting precious stones to obtain the best optical effect. I am therefore exploring the parallels between this and my work, individual specimens capture the succession of events and hint at the transformation to its present state. Minerals like agate form under intense pressure and heat, I am intrigued by the way that such multi-layered and multi-coloured order forms out of such chaos. An associated interest of mine is ‘Stratigraphy’, the study of rock layers and layering. Deposition of one layer is separated from the next by a clear interval or change in texture, colour, or mineralogy. Layers may merge with one another so that boundaries between them are unclear. As I cut and polish the surface of my specimens, my excitement of enquiring cold work techniques liberate the curious lore of this precious material and bring my forms to life. I thrill to see the freshly exposed interior, reveal the captured fragments of the moment of its formation. I have always been particularly interested by the interactions between humans and objects, how one encounters an unfamiliar object of desire”