

# V e s s e l



**Maarten Vrolijk (The Netherlands 1966 - )**

## **Sakura TRP20017**

Handblown & sculpted glass  
51 x 41 x 42 cm (20 1/4 x 16 1/4 x 16 1/4 inches)

While strongly influenced by the natural world, Vrolijk is not on a quest to expose an imitation of the “real” world, but rather, is on an exploration of the simple, unequivocal, and often overlooked aspects: colour, form, delicacy, strength, transparency, ephemerality, that provide a map to the fascinations we gravitate to when experiencing the world around us.

The volatility in accomplishing the exceptional thickness of his Sakura vases creates a risky balance between strength and delicacy. The thermal stress caused when trying to equalise the interior and exterior temperature of the cooling vessels, is fraught with the propensity for breakage. The success of Vrolijk’s works lie in the crystalline clarity posed against their substantial physical impact.

However, Vrolijk’s greatest achievement is the organic nature that he captures within each unique work, incorporating an eccentricity that is only achievable by the hand of the artist. The jewel-toned fragments, appearing like colourful melting ice or otherworldly barnacles clinging to the central form, culminate in an intensely kinetic explosion of colour.

### **Artist description:**

Maarten Vrolijk is an Amsterdam-based artist and designer who considers it important to elaborate on the simple, unequivocal nature of a product or art work and has been creating his works for over 25 years.

His aesthetic and ‘art language’ is particularly unusual because it consciously plays with shapes, colours and materials in an uncontrived way. He also believes his pieces should also make people’s everyday lives that bit more beautiful through the many little details that evoke the unexpected.

Many of his works have been collected and exhibited in several renowned international museums including the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, the Museum of Modern Art, New York and the Groninger

Museum.

In his own words:

“Even as a child, I was amazed by nature and what they call everyday things — the things that seemed to just pass others by, but which to me became lifelong fascinations.

I remember, for instance, the old cherry tree in my parents' garden, which in spring would unfailingly come out in a riot of pink before conjuring up its delightful red fruit. Having seen that show, I asked for a school desk in the same wonderful loud pink for my next birthday. That present remained a testimony to my wonderment at the cherry tree.

To my mind, flowers are nature's gems and have long been a recurrent inspiration in my designs: the bold tulip, the sculpted rose, the delicate lily.

On occasions, I have interpreted these in graphic designs; at other times, they have found their way into more artistic designs.

What grips me is not so much imitation of the "real" world. I am on a quest for the fresh image, the place where fascination becomes something visible and the design gains more worth from adding something to what already exists”