

VESSEL GALLERY

LONDON



Wayne Charmer (United Kingdom 1979 -)

Obsidian I

Obsidian I is a unique wall-mounted artwork based on crystal rock formations. Taken inspiration from the moment that a mass of rock is literally cracked open, to reveal a carpet of sparkling gems, Charmer presents his crystals as a highly textured painting, formed from shards of glass. Creating these fragments by hand and grading them in different sizes, allows Charmer to build up the texture in a purposeful and harmonious way, yet keeping the appearance as if each crystal has grown there.

The artwork is bonded to a black piano lacquered backboard which creates a breathtaking drop shadow effect. Practical and beautiful in equal measure.

In his own words:

'I immediately became attracted to working with glass during my time at university, I was drawn to the complex and challenging process of manipulating a material from a solid form to become fluid whilst in the kiln. I aim is to capture this fluidity in the final cooling process and present an organic characteristic to my work . The glass undergoes many transformations whilst firing and the not knowing aspect during this change is the attraction. Over the years I have developed a clearer understanding of the material yet I strive to develop new ways of working to explore and exploit the qualities of glass and this always presents new obstacles to over come which retain my initial fascination in working with this medium.'

Artist description:

For Charmer, the draw of glass is to exploit its translucent and reflective qualities. Inspired by nature, his signature techniques for his sculptural work are constructed from numerous hand-cut glass shards.

Whilst heated for several days in the kiln, the sharp edges are softened resulting in layers of melted glass resembling petals and other organic forms.

In his own words:

"I immediately became attracted to working with glass during my time at university. I was drawn to the complex and challenging process of manipulating the material, which is solid in form when cool but becomes fluid whilst in the kiln. My aim is to capture this fluidity in the final cooling process and present these organic characteristics within my work. The glass undergoes many transformations whilst firing and the 'not knowing' aspect during this change is the attraction. Over the years I have developed a clearer understanding of the material yet I strive to develop new ways of working to explore and exploit the qualities of glass, which in turn, presents new obstacles to overcome, which retains my fascination with the medium."

Charmer has exhibited extensively throughout the UK and was awarded setting-up business grant by the Prince Trust Fund in 2002. In 2004 he received the Cockpit Arts Seedbed Award. He has work in the Turner Museum of Glass private collection.