

# V e s s e l



**Louis Thompson (United Kingdom 1965 - )**

## **Cryptograph 210631**

Handblown & sculpted glass  
31 x 26.5 x 7 cm (12 1/4 x 10 3/4 x 2 3/4 inches)

'Cryptograph 210631' (in Amber & Chartreuse) is a unique glass sculpture that has been created using a variety of glass techniques, by the British artist, Louis Thompson.

The encased lines of 'script' are first created by carving a pre-made glass cup that has been carefully trailed with very fine black lines. This is then reintroduced to the heat and embedded inside the larger glass form, framing it between two carefully composed colours with each fading and running from the top & bottom throughout the artwork.

In the words of the artist to explain the concept behind the work;

"We live in a society under surveillance, our private exchanges exposed to others. This intrusion inspires humanity to adopt innovative forms of communication with each other. These objects reference our ever present personal communication devices and our dependence on passwords and encryption to share and express our inner most thoughts and aspirations"

The artist 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 and the V&A Museum in London. Thompson has completed International residencies at the prestigious Museum of Glass in Tacoma, The Glazenhuis Museum in Belgium and most recently at Soneva Art Glass in the Maldives.