

# VESSEL GALLERY

LONDON



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

## **Stills of Life Chronicles**

Handblown & sculpted glass

'Stills of Life Chronicles' is a unique glass installation (consisting of 7 individual elements) created in collaboration by the artists, Louis Thompson and Pratibha Mistry.

Pratibha Mistry is an established glass artist taking inspiration from the contours of human organs and their intricate cellular structures and workings. Mistry combines her long-standing career in mammalian pathology and toxicology, and the versatile properties of glass to produce highly curious sculptural glass pieces. Mistry's work conveys typically unseen structures of cells and yet at the same time highlights how these structures can be analogous to other elements of the natural world.

In the artist's own words;

"Combining my experiences in laboratory research and microscopy, I'm fascinated by cellular entities not always visible to the naked eye. To me these constituents of life represent a metaphor of 'acceptance' – a celebration that we are all fundamentally made of the same stuff despite our complexity and uniqueness. I'm also particularly drawn to conveying the sinister beauty of detrimental internal cellular transformations; bringing to the forefront the vulnerability of 'what lies underneath'."

Recent exhibitions and awards: Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2022, Makers Guild Wales, New Ashgate Gallery Risings Stars, Contemporary Glass Society Amanda Moriarty Prize.

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