

VESSEL GALLERY

LONDON



Amy Cushing (United Kingdom 1971 -)

Paradise 09 in Lyrata

Handblown and fused glass

35.5 x 27 x 27 cm (14 x 10 ⁵/₁₆ x 10 ⁵/₁₆ inches)

'Paradise 09 in Lyrata' is a unique glass sculpture created using hybrid hand-made glass techniques by the British artist, Amy Cushing.

Combining mouth blown glass with kiln formed glass, each piece within the collection displays a multiple of highly skilled glass processes, culminating in depth and vibrancy in each artwork.

The initial artworks from the Paradise collection were created as the artist's antidote to lockdown and all things grey and restrictive, inspiration came from everything exotic, tropical and unreachable at the time - Jamaica, jungle flora, birds of paradise, sunlight on crystal clear water - it was vital that the saturated colour transported Cushing beyond the repetitive pandemic days, weeks and months that were filled by rules, restraints and statistics.

Developed over a year long period, the palette was critical to Cushing, with many diverse firing tests needed to reach the perfect balance and contrast that was desired. The forms and construction were also immensely challenging, in the artist's own words;

“I needed light to pass through and intensify the colours, with overlapping finials creating different compositions depending on each sculpture’s rotation”

Completely unique every time one is made, Paradise fulfils Cushing’s quest as an artist for an infinite combination of colour and abstract pattern formation. The hope being, that as each new collection comes to fruition, it will retain synergy with the former, whilst communicating something slightly different as the palettes evolve.

The artist can also create pieces to commission, please contact the gallery for further information.

Artist description:

Cushing’s principal source of inspiration is colour and the language it conveys. Her work is often material led, abstract, geometric and site-specific.

Multi-disciplinary trained in Public Art at Chelsea School of Art, Cushing studied large-scale drawing, painting and all 3-D disciplines specialising in ceramic and glass. Frustrated by the lack of vivid colour in ceramic glazes, Cushing fused glass with clay creating surprising results from the incompatibilities. This led eventually to kiln forming glass, favoured for its luminous qualities.

Cushing’s studio practice specialises in colour sequence and balance, the energy of her palette always carefully considered. For 25 years she has experimented with glass firings, recording results, building a portfolio of fusing techniques. It takes great experience to understand both the technical and aesthetic compatibility of glass colours. Their transformation from cold to hot – and then hot to cold – is dramatic, so a portfolio of tests, samples, documentation and a trained eye is integral.

Cushing's signature series of suspended installations weave colour with mesmerising effect, creating layered compositions. These delicate non-static artworks float with an ethereal beauty, capturing and reflecting diaphanous qualities.

Each artwork is developed considering its relationship with the space, displaying continuity or contrast. Some installations are wall fixed, some suspended, some sculptural and illuminated. Both small and large scale, all are created to be spiritually elevating. Her bespoke installations and compositions can be displayed in both interior and exterior spaces.

Cushing is regularly selected to represent British Design both in the UK and overseas.

With the Treasure Collection, Cushing has collaborated with Vessel Gallery to make a series of contemporary mirrors. Each piece is a sumptuous union of richly hued anodized aluminium, industrial tinted mirror juxtaposed with highly coloured, luxuriously detailed signature glass created by Cushing. The resulting combination is breathtakingly elegant.