

Press release
June 2015

Anna Dickinson

Harmony in Glass

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENEVA, 12 JUNE – 1 NOVEMBER 2015

Inauguration

Thursday 11 June 2015 at 7 pm
in the presence of the artist

ariana



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suisse
de la céramique
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du verre

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Harmony in Glass

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Geneva, June 2015 - An established figure on the British and international contemporary scene, the artist Anna Dickinson (London, 1961) transfigures glass through her technical and formal aspirations. Often incorporating metal into her work, she creates vessels with pure lines from which a profound harmony emanates. The blend of curves, sharp edges or cutting form a radiant aesthetic, the result of a long reflective journey, tinged with perfectionism.

After an introduction to ceramics, Anna Dickinson devoted her early artistic studies to metalwork. Yet the real revelation came from her contact with glass, which eventually became her preferred material. Anna Dickinson's first pieces are marked by her experiments with the technique of electroforming (a layer of metal is deposited on a glass surface by electrolysis). However, this process turned out to be restrictive, as it permits only a very limited number of colours. For some years now, she has favoured alternative ways of combining different elements: firstly, glass vessels topped with wood or metal lids (copper, steel, silver, etc.), while later examples are fitted with metallic cylinders on the inside. Her recent use of plastic can sometimes be disorientating (identifying the various structural elements can be difficult). The juxtaposition of materials and colours creates a subtle contrast, reinforced by the geometry of the pieces and of the motifs cut into the glass.

Whereas Anna Dickinson previously drew inspiration from her travels to far-off places (formal references to the arts of Africa, Japan, Indonesia, etc.), her creativity is now stimulated by her immediate environment. The industrial landscapes of London (with their old gas tanks and water towers), contemporary architecture, complex machinery (aircraft engines, satellites, weapons, etc.) continue to arouse her curiosity. Science fiction – in the form of TV programmes that she watched in the 1970s – and its accompanying imaginative realm, have moreover given rise to original aesthetic research.

The artist produces approximately 10 to 15 pieces a year. It sometimes takes her weeks, months, or even longer, to achieve the desired result. But time is relative, since the process of creation is just as important in her eyes as the finished work. Occasionally, Anna Dickinson produces small series on a particular theme (the sphere, cylinders, etc.). In addition, she draws and writes down her ideas in carefully preserved notebooks – detailing each stage in the production of a piece.

Anna Dickinson's vessels are not designed from a utilitarian perspective. As she says herself: "They are for enjoyment ". Their refined lines, together with the subtle combinations of materials, bring them closer to sculpture and invite contemplation.

The exhibition at the Musée Ariana spotlights Anna Dickinson's most recent works as the consummation to date of a career spanning nearly thirty years.

Ana Quintero Pérez and Stanislas Anthonioz, exhibition curators

ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

Born in London in 1961

1979-1982: Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Design, Middlesex Polytechnic (GB)

1983-1985: Master of Arts (MA) in Glass, Royal College of Art, London

Lives and works in London

Selected exhibitions

- 2014 The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF), von Bartha gallery, Maastricht (NL)
- 2013 Group exhibition "Visiting an Imaginary Art Collector", Das Kleine Museum, Weissenstadt (DE)
- 2012 Solo exhibition, Bartha Contemporary gallery, London (GB)
- 2010 Solo exhibition "Glass Needs Space", von Bartha gallery, Basel (CH)
European Triennial for Ceramics and Glass, Mons (BE)
- 2008 Solo exhibition, von Bartha gallery, Basel (CH)
- 2007 The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF), von Bartha gallery, Maastricht (NL)
- 2005 Group exhibition, Victoria & Albert Museum, London (GB)
Group exhibition, organised by Dan Klein at the Danny Katz Gallery (Bond Street), London (GB)
- 2003 Ben Janssens Oriental Art Gallery, London (GB)
- 2001 The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF), von Bartha gallery, Maastricht (NL)
Solo exhibition, von Bartha gallery, Basel (CH)
- 2000 The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF), von Bartha gallery, Maastricht (NL)
- 1999 Solo exhibition, Ben Janssens Oriental Art Gallery, London (GB)
- 1997 Solo exhibition, von Bartha gallery, Basel (CH)
"Transformations", Oriel Gallery, Cardiff, Wales (GB)
"Expo GAS International 1", Tucson, Arizona (US)
"Venetia Aperto Vetro" (guest of honour), Venice (IT)
- 1995 "Five British Female Artists", Sanske Gallery, Zurich (CH)
International Exhibition of Glass, Kanazawa (JP)
- 1994 Gooijer Gallery, Duisburg (NL)
Oxford Gallery, Oxford (GB)
Group exhibition, Koyanagi Gallery, Tokyo (JP)
- 1993 Solo exhibition, Kurokabe (JP)
- 1991 "World Glass Now '91", Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art (JP)
Solo exhibition, Koyanagi Gallery, Tokyo (JP)
- 1990 "Image and Object", Centre Pompidou, Paris (FR)
- 1986 Loch Haven Art Centre, Florida (US)
- 1985 Coburg Glass Show, Coburg (DE)

Public Collections

Brighton & Hove Museum, Brighton (GB)

Racine Art Museum, Wisconsin (US)

Corning Glass Museum, New York (US)

Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (GB)

Kunstsammlungen der Veste Coburg (DE)

Musée atelier départemental du verre, Sars-Poteries (FR)

National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (JP)

National Museum of Scotland (Dan Klein & Alan J. Poole Collection), Edinburgh (GB)

Speed Art Museum, Kentucky (US)

Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio (US)

Turner Museum of Glass, University of Sheffield (GB)

Victoria & Albert Museum, London (GB)

Websites

www.annadickinsonglass.com/

www.vonbartha.com/artists/anna-dickinson/

A publication will be launched to coincide with this exhibition:

Anna Dickinson (ISBN 978-3-9523351-9-2)

Anna Dickinson Harmony in Glass

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RENDEZ-VOUS

Guided tours

On Sunday 21st June at 11 a.m, 13 September and 1st November at 3 p.m.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Musée Ariana

Musée suisse de la céramique et du verre
Avenue de la Paix 10 | 1202 Genève
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www.ariana-geneve.ch

Open 10 am – 6 pm
Closed Mondays

Entrance fee (CHF 5.-/CHF 3.-), entrance free till 18 and each first Sunday of each month
The other Sundays : one paid entry = one entry gifted

Press visit on demand

Exhibition opening on Thursday June 11 at 7 pm

Exhibition organisation :

Isabelle Naef Galuba, director
isabelle.naef-galuba@ville-ge.ch

Curatorship :

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ana.quintero-perez@ville-ge.ch
Stanislas Anthonioz,
stanislas.anthonioz@ville-ge.ch

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01
Anna Dickinson
Vessel, 2014
Moulded, cut and polished glass, oxidised steel
H. 21 cm x W. 22.5 cm
Private collection
Photo: Robert Hall



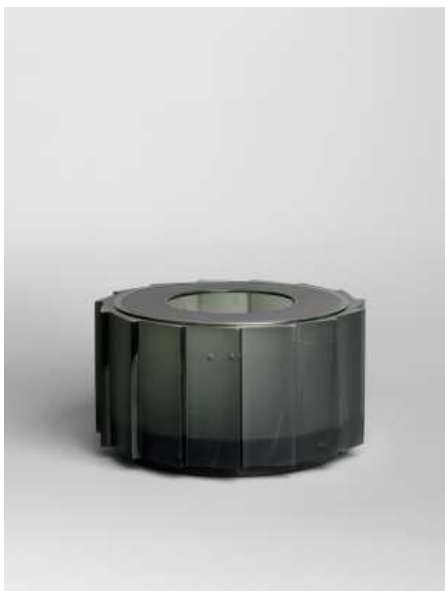
02
Anna Dickinson
Vessel, 2013
Moulded, cut and polished glass, waxed steel
H. 15 cm x W. 24 cm
Property of the artist
Photo: Robert Hall



03
Anna Dickinson
Vessel, 2014
Moulded, ground and polished glass, oxidised
copper
H. 13 cm x W. 26.5 cm
Private collection
Photo: Robert Hall



04
Anna Dickinson
Vessel, 2009
Blown, cut and polished glass, steel and silver
H. 23 cm x W. 28.5 cm
Private collection
Photo: Alan Tabor



05
Anna Dickinson
Vessel, 2010
Moulded, cut and polished glass, steel and silver
H. 15 cm x W. 27 cm
Private collection
Photo: Robert Hall

NOTE TO JOURNALISTS

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