



MARIAWETTERGREN  
GALERIE



# TORA URUP

the Sun the Moon



## the Sun the Moon

Galerie Maria Wettergren is pleased to present the solo exhibition *the Sun the Moon* by Tora Urup, introducing new poetic sculptures in hand-shaped solid glass and Japanese Urushi lacquer by the Danish artist. Urup is fascinated by rotation, a phenomenon central to the physical realization of her glass sculptures, but equally relevant to all movement in our universe, determined by gravity. This dynamic rather than static state is not only characterized by the glass objects themselves, but equally engaged by their viewers, moving around the sculptures to observe their changing expressions. In the words of the artist, *“My work is a game of seeing and perceiving. A game that challenges our senses and our perception of space and reality.”*

Tora Urup has been experimenting with hand-applying colored Japanese lacquer directly on glass since a research trip to Japan in 2017, where she learned about the traditional Urushi technique, and explored the contrast between the materials as well as their inherent qualities. While Urup establishes some rules in her process, she also allows the unexpected nature of the materials to come into play. The dynamic between control and chance is an intriguing part of the process.

The Urushi lacquer is made with the sap from trees, and thus is an organic, “living” material with a completely different visual quality to glass. While the solid glass reflects the light in multiple ways, the Japanese Urushi lacquer absorbs it, creating a feeling of infinite depth. By uniting these contrasting principles in the same object, Urup creates a vibrating feeling of dynamics related to our perception of light

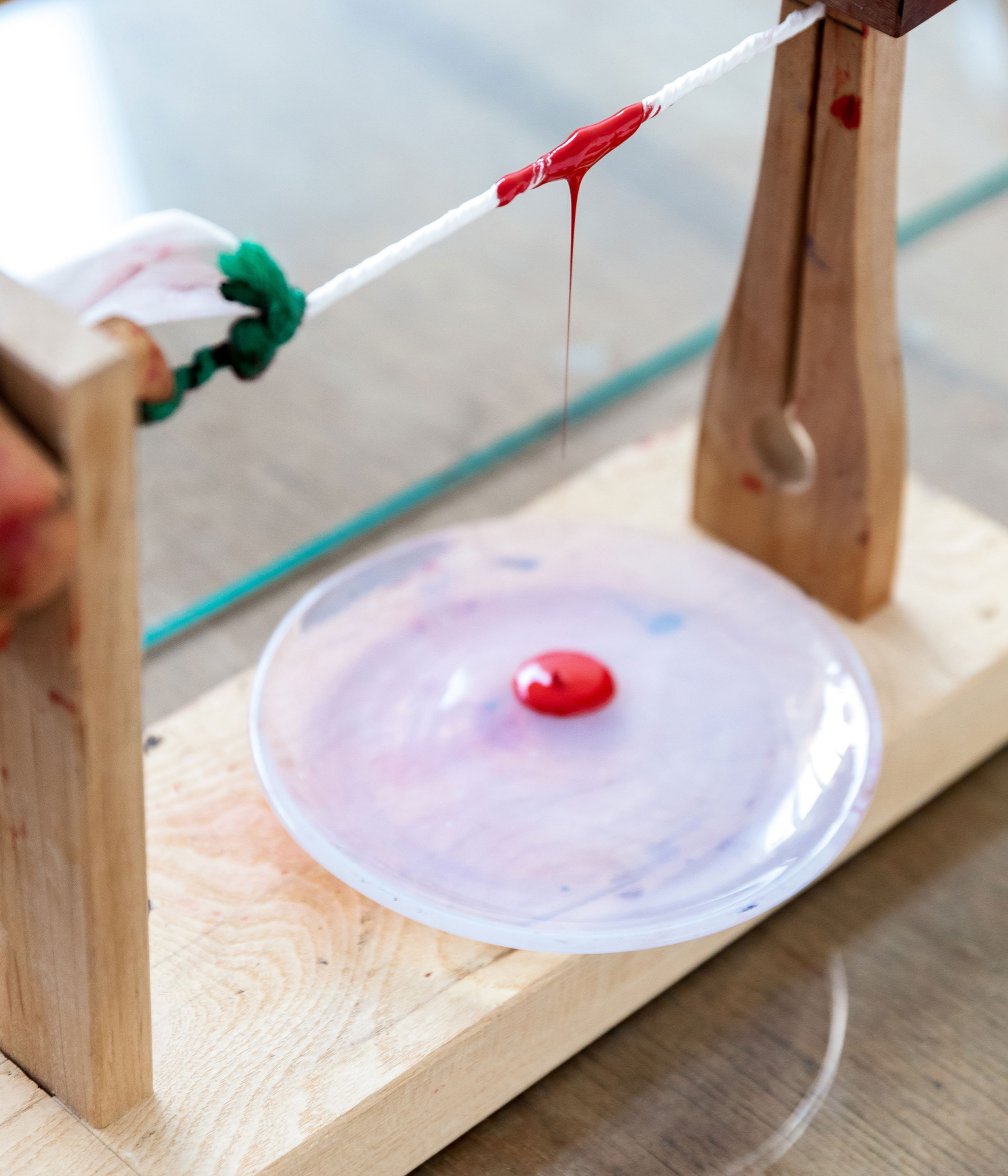
and shadow, transparency/opacity, space/surface, void/solid, illusion/form, light/heavy, cold/warm.

The exhibition equally includes examples of Urup’s earlier iconic works, such as the circular “Multilayers” and “Sky Reflections” in vibrant colors of thin opaque and thick transparent glass. These bodies of work reflect Urup’s initial investigations into the specific role played by color and material in our perception of volume and space and reveal the artist’s interest in altering archetypes like the glass bowl into dreamlike objects. By combining subtle colors and making them interplay with each other by varying the glass thickness, Urup enables new spatial perceptions that reverse our conventional understanding of the traditional glass bowl. The interior volumes of these *trompe l’oeil* sculptures seem to float independently of their exterior, and by the careful juxtaposition and treatment of cut, polished and matt-brushed surfaces, she creates a genuine illusion of a seemingly infinite and liquid space inside a physically restrained volume.

Tora Urup started her career working with ceramic art in Tokoname, Japan in 1982-83, after which she studied glass and ceramics at the School of Applied Arts of Copenhagen in Denmark. In 1994, she graduated from the Royal College of Art in London and subsequently returned to Denmark to collaborate with Holmegaard Glassworks and Royal Copenhagen porcelain. Since 2001, Tora Urup has been running her own design studio and produced her works in collaboration with highly skilled craftsmen in Europe and Japan.

Tora Urup's artworks are part of important museum collections such as **The François Pinault Collection**, Paris, France; **The Museum of Art and Design**, Helsinki, Finland; the **MUDAC**, Lausanne, Switzerland; **The Craft and Design Museum**, Reykjavik, Iceland; **Coburg Glass Museum**, Germany; **The Art Council**, Copenhagen, Denmark; **Kunstforeningen af 14 August**, Denmark; **The Glass Museum**, Ebeltoft, Denmark and the **Designmuseum Danmark**.





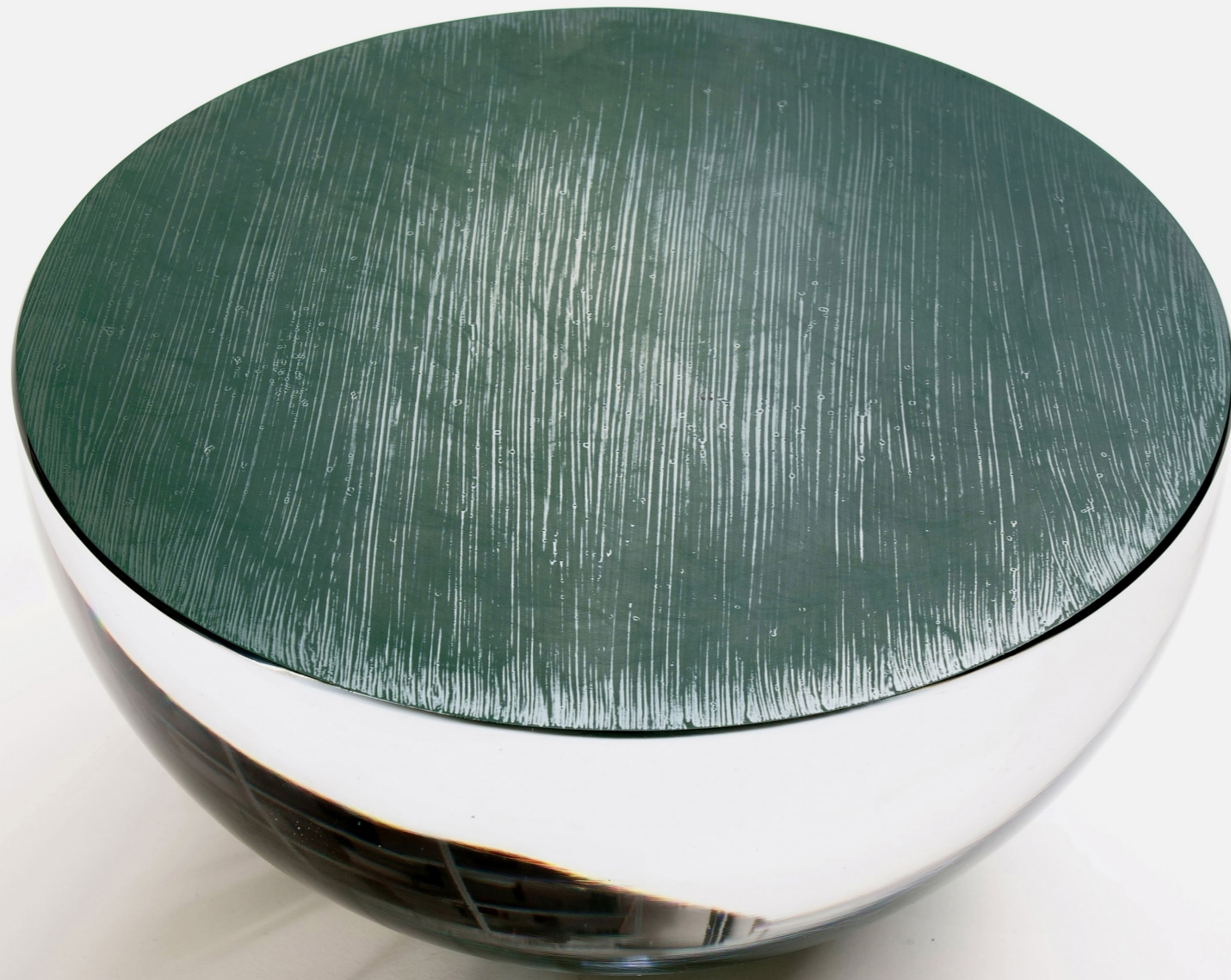
# URUSHI

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*Balancing Midnight Green*  
2023  
Handshaped from solid clear glass, applied with colored Japanese lacquer  
Ø26,5 x 14,5 cm  
Unique piece





*“ In Japan, urushi lacquer is known for the perfect smooth surfaces, but my mission goes in a different direction. Just as I want to emphasize the special nature of the glass material, it is interesting to find out what characterizes urushi and to make the two materials play together. I leave traces of brushstrokes and dust grains in the urushi lacquer, giving it an interesting character that plays with the light in different ways. ”*

Tora Urup

*Rolling Red and Blue*

2023

Handshaped from solid clear glass, applied with colored Japanese lacquer

Ø18,5 x 22 cm

Unique piece



*“ My work is a continuous process, revolving around the meeting between light, color and transparent solid glass, in which I explore new possibilities of expression. ”*

Tora Urup





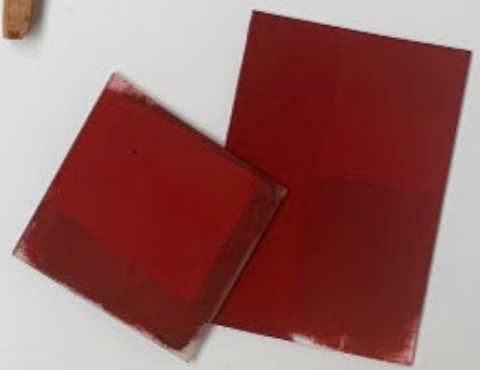
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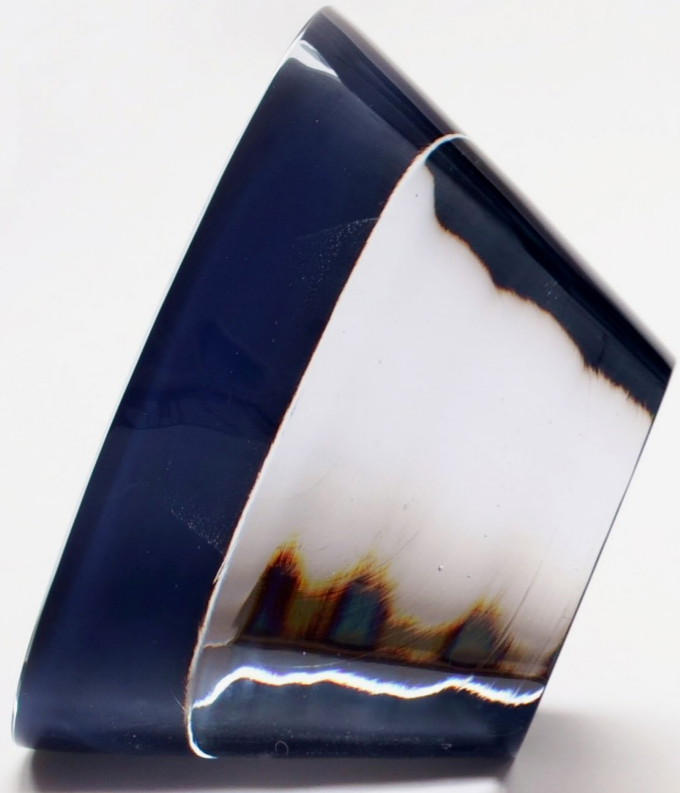
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*Rolling Blue and Black*  
2024  
Handshaped from solid clear glass, applied with colored Japanese lacquer  
Ø25,7 x 15 cm  
Unique piece





*Rotating Yellow Cone*

2023

Handshaped from solid clear glass, applied with colored Japanese lacquer

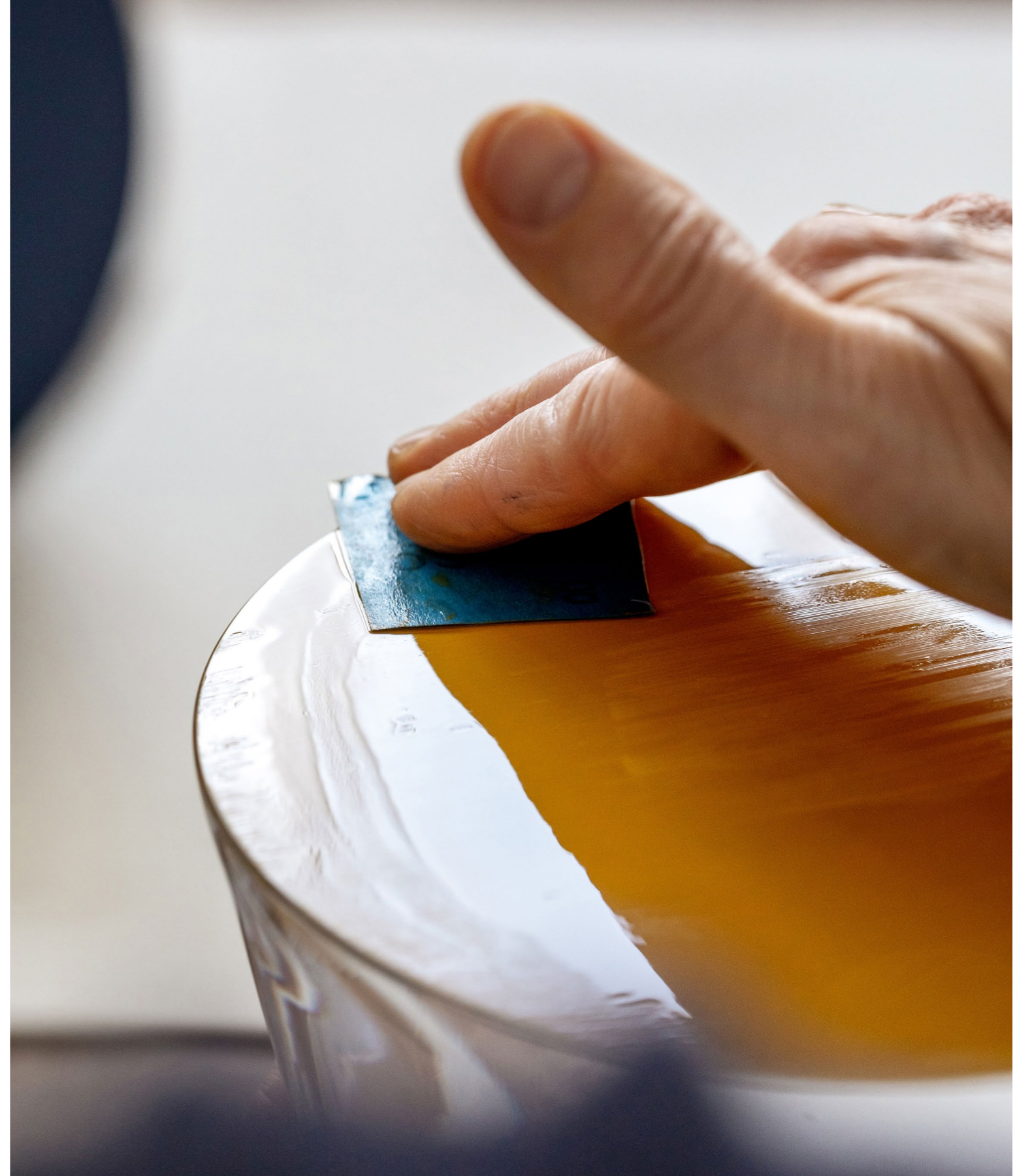
Ø17 x 25 cm

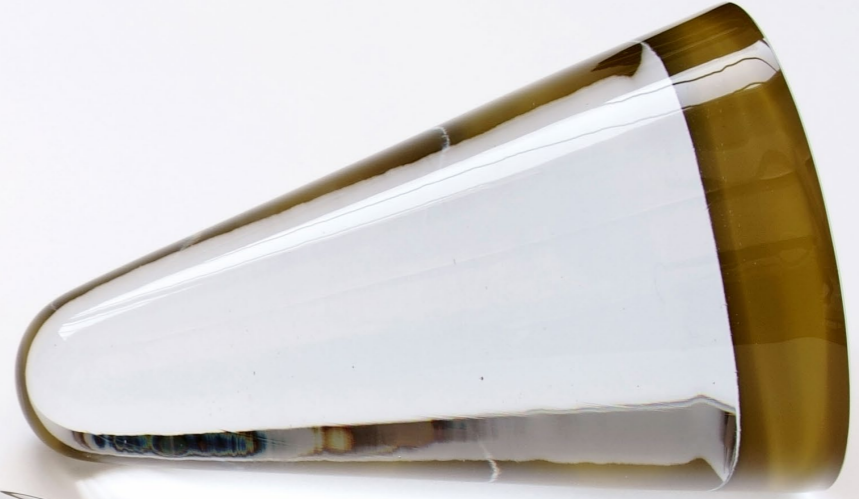
Unique piece



*“ I have been experimenting for several years with applying colored Japanese lacquer directly to glass. The two materials are very different and the contrast between them is interesting. The lacquer is an organic sap, derived from trees, a “living” material with a completely different visual quality than glass. ”*

Tora Urup







*Rotating Cerulean Blue*  
2023  
Handshaped from solid clear glass, applied with colored Japanese lacquer  
Ø19 x 19 cm  
Unique piece



*“ When the viewer moves around the object, different expressions are experienced. The reflections of the glass are changed by the surrounding light, space and direction, and by the meeting between the reflecting transparent glass and the mat lacquered surface. ”*

Tora Urup







*Tangerine Top*

2023

Handshaped from solid clear glass, applied with colored Japanese lacquer

Ø22 x 8 cm

Unique piece





*“ My urushi glass works are not static but dynamic. Shapes  
that can rotate, roll and rock.”*

Tora Urup





*Rotating Cloudy Dark Blue*  
2023  
Handshaped from solid clear glass, applied with colored Japanese lacquer  
Ø24 x 17,5 cm  
Unique piece



“ I’m interested in the inherent qualities of the materials. In my process, I establish some rules and let the unexpected nature of the materials come into play. The dynamic between control and chance is an exciting part of the process. ”

Tora Urup





*Blue Necked Sphere*  
2023  
Handshaped from solid clear glass, applied with colored Japanese lacquer  
Ø19 x 19,5 cm  
Unique piece









*Black Floating Eclipse*

2023

Handshaped from solid clear glass, applied with colored Japanese lacquer

Ø22 x 7,5 cm

Unique piece



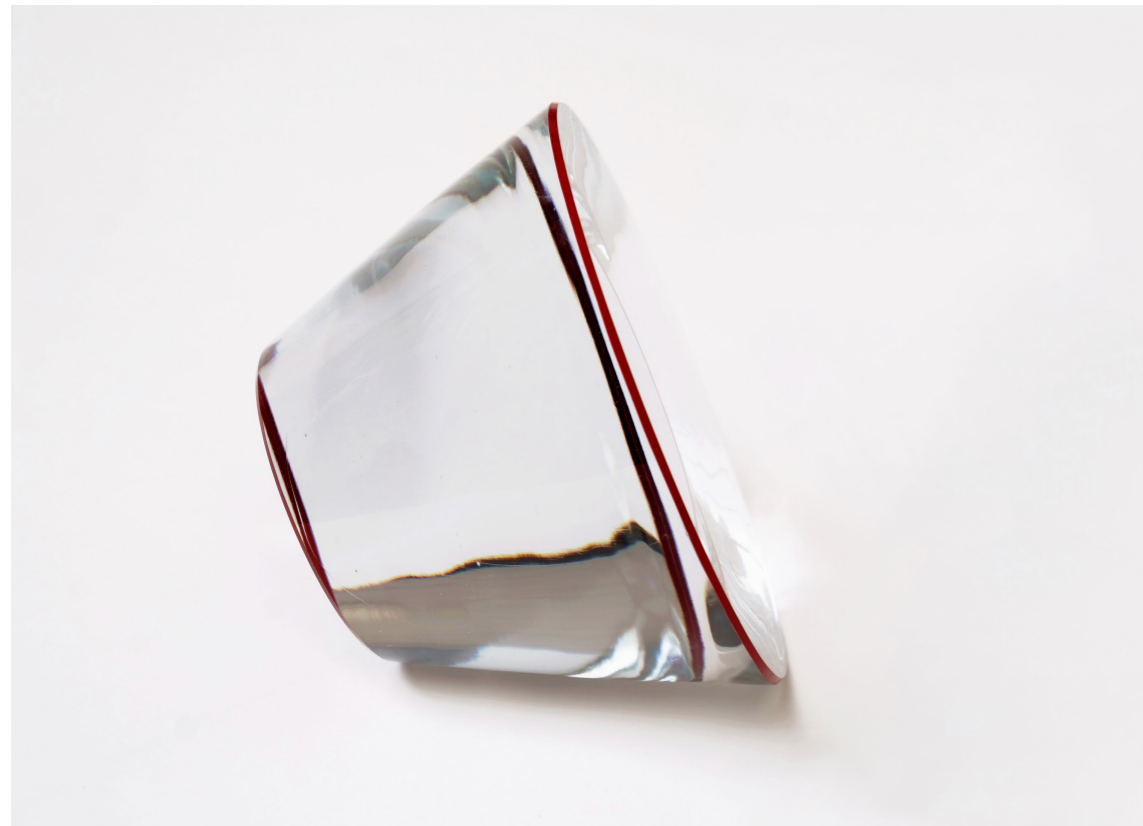
*Circling Red Circles*

2023

Handshaped from solid clear glass, applied with colored Japanese lacquer

Ø21,5 x 12,5 cm

Unique piece





*“ My work absorbs the viewer and the surrounding space,  
which are reflected in the surface, becoming a part of it. ”*

Tora Urup



*Double Clear Top*  
2023  
Handshaped, handcut and polished clear glass  
Ø35 x 15 cm  
Unique piece







# SKY REFLECTIONS

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*Sky. Reflection*

2023

Handshaped, handcut and polished glass with overlay

Ø30 x 6,8 cm

Unique piece





“ *My interest in the circular form is linked to its visual strength, which refers to essential elements of human existence, both as the recognizable close; bowl, dish and plate, and the more abstract distant; sun and moon. ”*

Tora Urup





*Sky Reflection. Emerald Green*  
2023

Handshaped, handcut and polished glass with overlay  
Ø24,7 x 7,5 cm  
Unique piece



*Sun. Reflection*

2023

Handshaped, handcut and polished glass with overlay

Ø25 x 8 cm

Unique piece







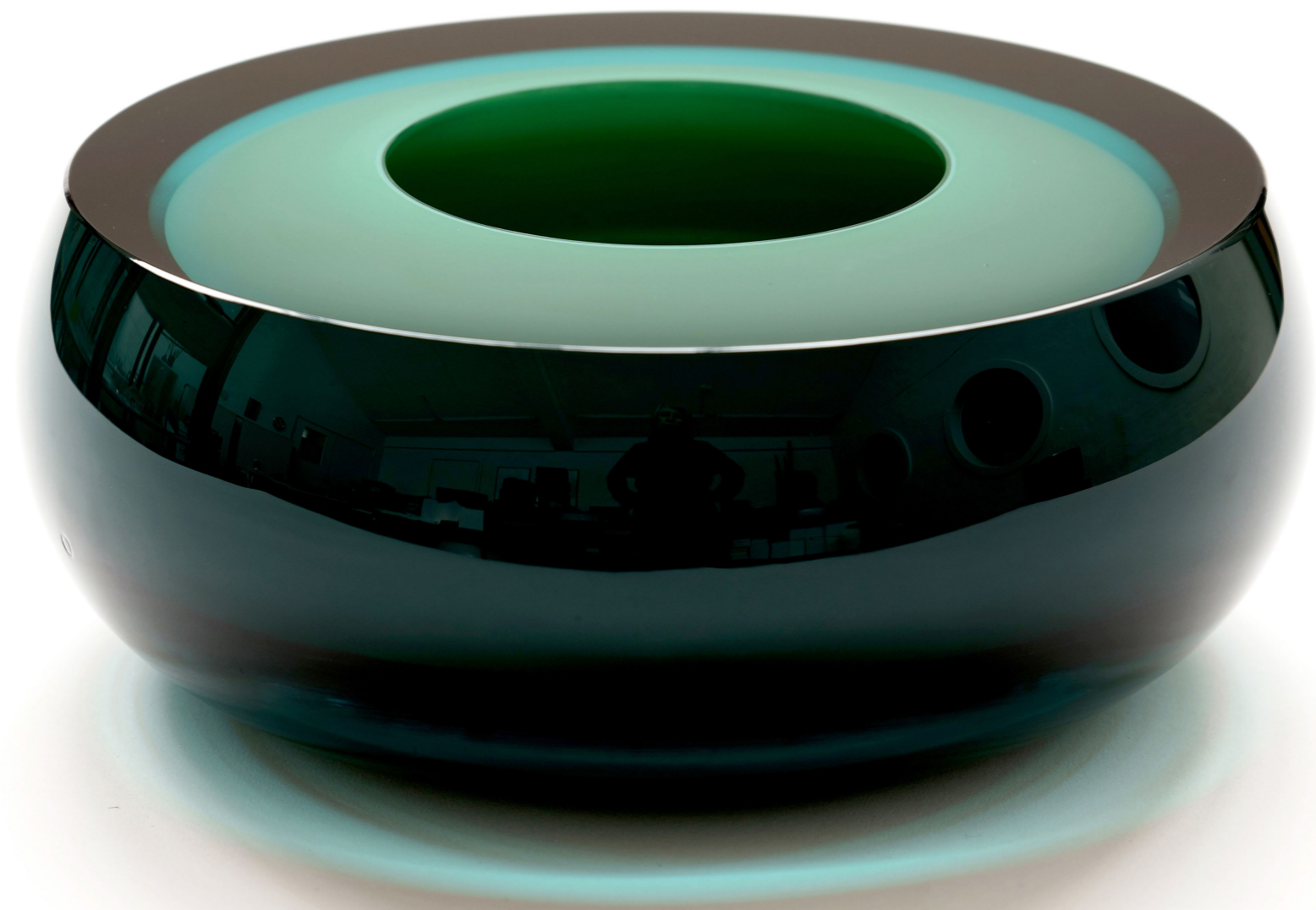
# MULTIPLE LAYERS

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*Viridian Midnight*  
2023  
Mouthblown, handcut and polished, layered glass  
Ø30 x 11,5 cm  
Unique piece





*Maroon and Blue*

2023

Mouthblown, handcut and polished, layered glass

Ø28 x 10 cm

Unique piece







*Grey Layers*  
2023  
Mouthblown, handcut and polished, layered glass  
Ø31 x 10,5 cm  
Unique piece



*Cool Grey, Clear, Transparent Grey*  
2014  
Mouthblown, handcut and polished, layered glass  
Ø26 x 11,5 cm  
Unique piece



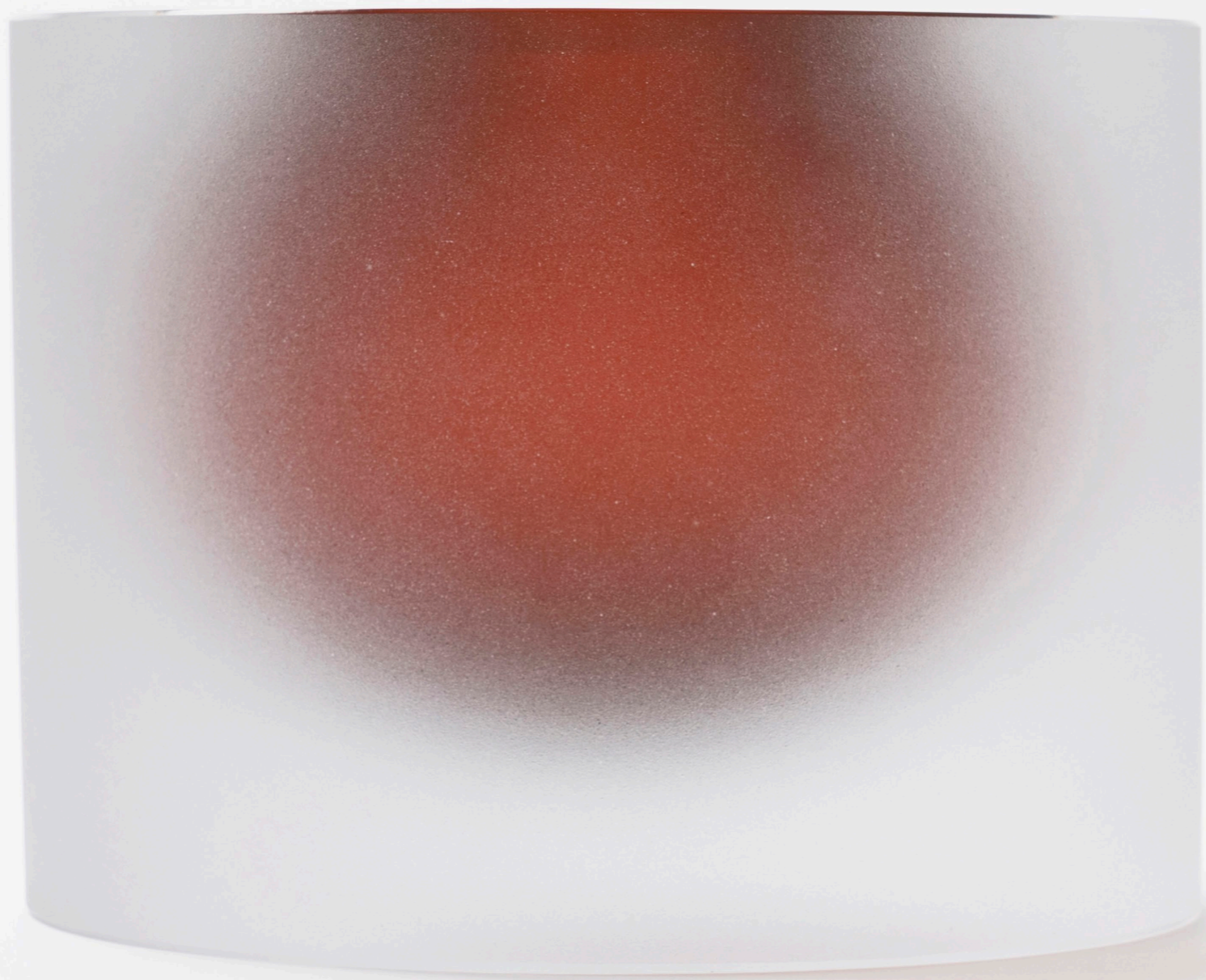


# CYLINDER

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*Floating Red Sun*  
2021  
Mouthblown, handcut and mattbrushed glass  
Ø17,3 x 13 cm  
Unique piece







*Cylinder with floating bowl. Translucent Black*  
2019  
Mouthblown, handcut and mattbrushed glass  
Ø20 x 12 cm  
Unique piece



# SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

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*Eiswasserglass*, 2017, Gewerbemuseum Winterthur, Switzerland (exhibition view)



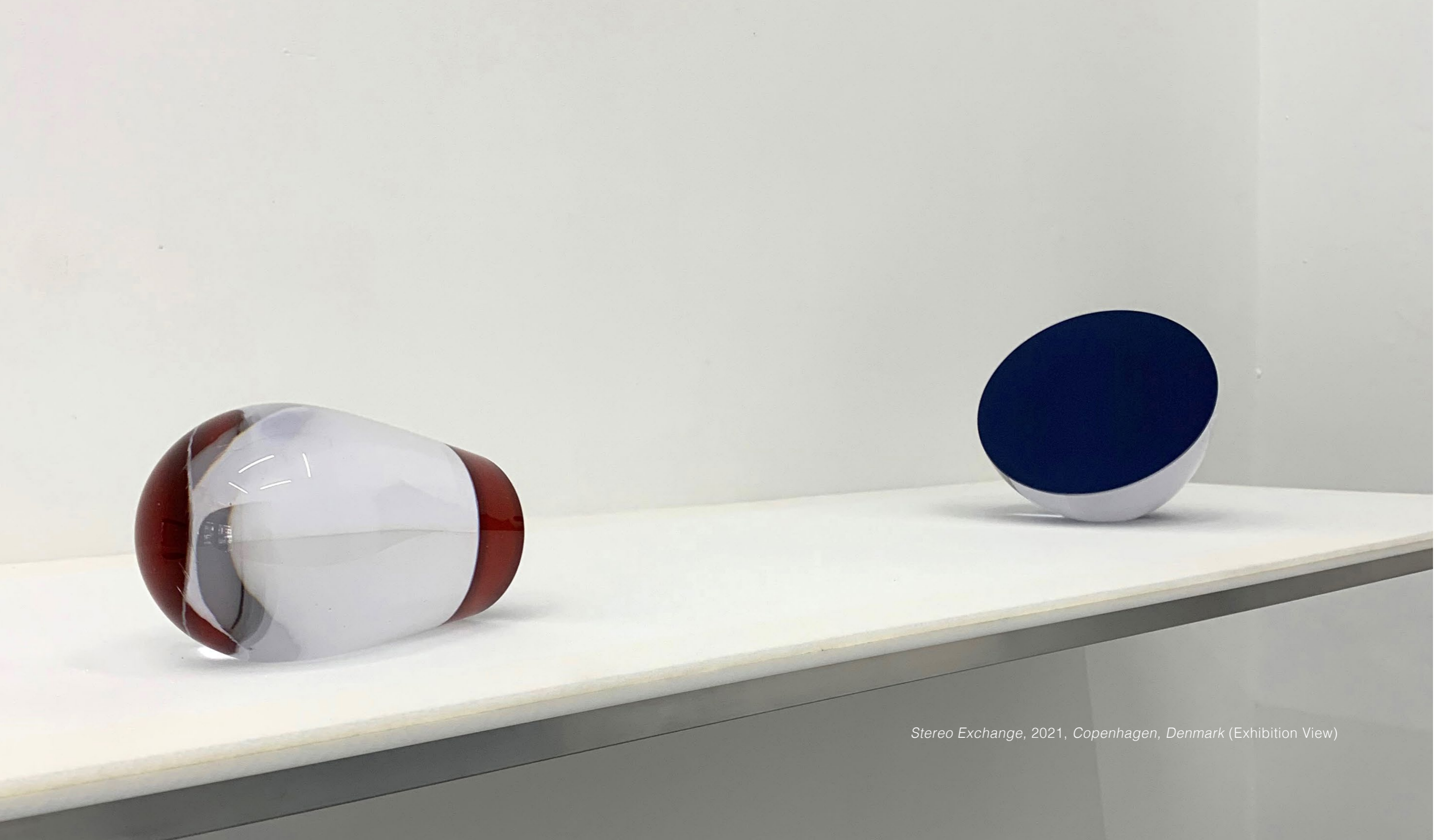


2014, The Danish National Bank, Copenhagen (exhibition view)





*Seeing Is Forgetting the Name of the Thing One Sees*, 2014, Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France (exhibition view)



*Stereo Exchange, 2021, Copenhagen, Denmark (Exhibition View)*



*New Danish Glass, 2007, Holstebro Artmuseum, Denmark (Exhibition View)*

# CURRICULUM VITAE

Tora Urup, b. 1960, Denmark

## EDUCATION

- 1992-94 MA Degree Royal College of Art, London, UK  
1984-89 School of Applied Arts, Copenhagen, Denmark  
1982-83 Assistant, ceramics studio Tobo Sugi, Tokoname, Japan

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *the Sun the Moon*, solo exhibition, Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France  
TEFAF New York, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, New York, USA
- 2023 Pad London, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, London, UK  
*Sense of Oneness*, duo exhibition with Ceramist Quanbin Dong,  
Gallery ChaXartXRtm, Rotterdam, Holland  
*Artwork Orange*, group show, Gallery Weinberger / Schandorff,  
Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2022 *Summertime*, group show, Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France  
*Modern Masters*, group show, Galerie Handwerk, München, Germany  
Group show with Ceramist Bodil Manz and German Painter Katrin Webermann,  
Gallery Weinberger / Schandorff, Copenhagen, Denmark  
PAD London, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, London, UK  
Design Miami / Basel, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Basel, Switzerland  
TEFAF New York, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, New York, USA  
PAD Paris Art + Design, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France
- 2021 Design Miami / Basel, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Basel, Switzerland  
*Line Space Texture. The Poetics of Form in the Works of Lotte  
Westphael, Tora Urup and Carl Emil Jacobsen*, curated  
by Galerie Maria Wettergren, Officinet, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Stereo Exchange, duo show with Artistgroup A-Kassen,  
Copenhagen, Denmark  
Cheongju Craft Biennale, main exhibition, South Korea
- 2020 *Nouvelle Vague*, Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France  
*Reflection*, group show, Museum of Glass and Jewellery, Jablonec nad Nisou,  
Czech Republic  
TEFAF Maastricht, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Maastricht, Netherlands  
*Seeing Red*, Fenditton Gallery, Cambridge, UK  
PAD Paris Art + Design, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France
- 2019 Hempel glass prize exhibition, Hempel Glass Museum, Denmark

- 2018 PAD Paris Art + Design, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France  
*Glas-Gefäs-Objekt*, group show, Staatliches  
Museum für Kunst und Design, Nürnberg, Germany  
*Japan Return*, Glass and Urushi at Galerie A. Petersen, Denmark  
The Salon Art and Design, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, New York, USA  
Design Miami Basel, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Basel, Switzerland  
PAD Paris / London Art + Design, With Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris  
France / London, UK  
*LIQUID*, Group exhibition, Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France  
PAD Geneva, With Galerie Maria Wettergren, Geneva, Switzerland  
*Eiswasserglass*, duo show with German photographer / glass collector  
Hans Hansen, Gewerbemuseum Winterthur, Switzerland  
*Everyday Life - Thinking Design*, group exhibition, 21st Century Museum of  
Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan  
The Salon Art and Design, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, New York, USA  
PAD London, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, London, UK  
Design Basel, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Basel, Switzerland  
*Japan – Denmark 150 years*, Gallery A. Petersen, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*D'Days "Submersion": Exploration en eaux profonde*, Musée des Arts  
Decoratifs, Paris, France  
*SILENCE*, Maison & Objet, Paris, France
- 2016 Chart Art fair, Copenhagen. With Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France  
*DIALOGUES I*, duo exhibition with Eske Rex, Galerie Maria Wettergren  
Paris, France  
PAD Paris Art + Design, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France  
PAD London, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, London, UK  
Art Genève, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2015 The Salon Art and Design, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, New York, USA  
IGS exhibition, Novybor Glass Museum, Novybor, Czech Republic  
*Themes and Variations*, solo show at Gallery Kuzebauch, Prague,  
Czech Republic  
*Between Earth and Sky*, Mindcraft15, Designmuseum Denmark, with The  
Danish Art Council, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Design Basel, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Basel, Switzerland  
*Between Earth and Sky*, Mindcraft15. / Designweek. Chiostro Minore di San  
Simpliciano, with The Danish Artcouncil, Milano, Italy  
*DG15 – 40 years of contemporary glass in Denmark*, Ebeltoft  
Glassmuseum, Denmark  
*Spectrum*, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland  
*Positionen des Gestaltens*, Galerie Handwerk, München, Germany
- 2014 *Honary Award exhibition*, solo show, The Danish National Bank,

Copenhagen, Denmark  
*På og i glas*, solo, show, Butik for Borddækning, Copenhagen, Denmark  
 Design Basel / Miami, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Basel, Switzerland / Miami, USA  
*Seeing is forgetting the name of the thing one sees*, solo exhibition, Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France  
 PAD Paris Art + Design, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France  
*Exempla*, exhibition and living workshop, Internationale Handwerksmesse, München, Germany  
*Spectrum*, group show, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland  
*Positionen des Gestaltens*, group show, Galerie Handwerk, München, Germany  
 2013 Design Basel / Miami, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Basel, Switzerland / Miami, USA  
 Musée National Eugène Delacroix, Paris, France  
 Dallas art fair with Hedge Gallery, San Francisco, USA  
 2012 PAD Paris Art + Design, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France  
 Design Miami / Basel with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Basel, Switzerland / Miami, USA  
 PAD London, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, London, UK  
*From Denmark with Love*, Gallery PULS ceramics / Ampersand House, Brussels, Belgium  
 PAD Paris Art + Design, with Galerie Maria Wettergren. Paris, France  
*Tumblers and Plates*, Mindcraft12 arr. by Danish Crafts, Milano, Italy  
 2011 *Tumblers and Bowls*, Mindcraft11, arr. by Danish Crafts, Milano, Italy  
*Pricewinners gallery*, Galerie Handwerk, München, Germany  
 2009 *Tableau*, solo show, Butik for Borddækning, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*ColorVision*, group show, Scottish gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland  
*Nordic selected*, CODE 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Entdekt*, group show, Gallery Eva Maisch, Würzburg, Germany  
*Modern Masters*, Groupshow arr. by Galerie Handwerk, München, Germany  
 2008 Gallery Puls Ceramics, Brussels, Belgium  
*Tora Urup*, solo show, Galleri Jytte Møller, Fredericia, Denmark  
 2007 *Func Art*, Gallery Drudd & Køppe, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Epal*, group show, Reykjavik, Iceland  
 Group show with Jens Urup and Kristin Urup at Janusbygningen, West Jutland, Denmark  
*Yellow*, Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland  
 Duo show with Thomas Bohle at Galerie Puls, Brussels, Belgium  
*New Danish Glass "Glasss"*, Design Museum Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*New Danish Glass "Glasss"*, Holstebro Artmuseum, Denmark

2006 *TU collection*, Maison & Objet, Paris, France  
*TU collection*, Neon, Ambiente, Tokyo, Japan  
*TU glassware collection for Kimura Glass*, Ambiente, Tokyo, Japan  
 2005 *Kunstforeningen af 14. August*, Jubilee exhibition, Designmuseum Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Tora Urup*, solo show, Gana Art Center, Seoul, South Korea  
 2004 *Stuff*, Danish culture festival, Toronto harbour front, Canada  
 Gallery A, Tokyo Designer's week, Tokyo, Japan  
 Group show, Gallery Kullens Konsthandel, Helsingborg, Sweden  
*Tora Urup*, solo show, Gallery Noriorio, Toyota, Japan  
*TU collection with Talents*, Seoul, South Korea  
 2003 *Tora Urup*, solo show, Clara Scremini Gallery, Paris, France  
*Derfor*, arr. by Danish Crafts, Paustian, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*TU collection with Talents*, Ambiente, Tokyo  
 2002 *TU collection with Talents*, Tendence, Messe Frankfurt, Germany  
 Tora Urup and Helle Helsinghoff at Blås & Knåda, Stockholm, Sweden  
*Tora Urup*, solo show in Skandium, London, UK  
*La Tradition de Demain – Innovation au Quotidien*, arr. by Danish Crafts  
 The Danish House, Paris, France  
 1999 *A small exhibition*, Cite Design, with the Denmark festival in New York City, USA  
 1998 *Valobaari – Lightbar*, Helsinki Light Festival, Esplanada, Helsinki, Finland  
*Kitchenware*, Exhibition of new designs for Royal Copenhagen with Ole Jensen, Ursula Much-Petersen og Inger-Louise Bach, Showroom Amager Torv & Arken Art Museum, Denmark  
*New Danish Glass*, National Glass Centre, Sunderland, UK  
*Living Design-Dialogue*, Gustav Lübcke Museum, Hamm, Germany  
*Klaipēda*, Riga, Lituania / Latvia, Estonia  
 1996 *Danish Crafts and Design*, Museum Manège, St. Petersburg, Russia  
*Unika-66 kunsthåndværkere*, Design museum Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Art – Industry*, Royal Copenhagen Jubilee exhibition, Sophienholm, Denmark  
 Munch-Petersen for Morten Skriver and Christian Skeel's scent-installation, Esbjerg Museum of Art  
 1995 *A Bathroom story by Anne Tophøj*, Bente Skjøttgaard & Tora Urup, Galleri Nørby, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Dansk Design Aktuelt*, Sophienholm, Denmark  
*Living Design*, Covent dels Angeles, Barcelona & Circolo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain  
 1992 The Autumn Exhibition at Charlottenborg Exhibition hall, Copenhagen, Denmark  
 1991 *Never compromise on quality*, Spøttrup Castle, Denmark

1990 *Glasobjekter*, Overgaden, Institute of Contemporary Art,  
Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Design – Crafts or Industry?*, Den Frie – Center of Contemporary Art,  
Copenhagen, Denmark

#### SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

François Pinault Collection, Paris, France  
Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe (MKG), Hamburg  
Museum of Decorative Arts, Prague, Czech Republic  
MUDAC – Musée de design et d'arts appliqués contemporains, Lausanne, Switzerland  
European Museum of Modern Glass, Coburg, Germany  
The Craft and Design Museum Reykjavik, Iceland  
Design Museum Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark  
The Museum of Art and Design, Helsinki, Finland  
New Carlsberg Foundation, Denmark  
The Art Council, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Hempel Glass Museum  
The Glass Museum, Ebeltoft, Denmark  
Næstved Museum, Denmark

#### PRIZES & AWARDS

2019 Hempel Glass prize  
2014 The Danish Nationalbank, Jubilee foundation. Honorary Award 2014  
2010 Inga and Ejvind Kold Christensen. Honorary Award  
2009 The Danish Artcouncil Design Award  
Bayerischer Staatspreis, Germany  
2008 Kunstforeningen af 14. August Award  
2006 Esther and Jep Fink memorial foundation  
1999 The Danish Artcouncil three year working Grant.  
1998 Keramikbanken travel Foundation.  
1993 Ole Haslund Artist prize  
1990 Pilchuck Glass School Scholarship



## PHOTO CREDITS

Artwork photos  
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Artist Studio, Copenhagen  
© Kirstine Autzen

Exhibition views, 2014, The Danish National Bank, Copenhagen, Denmark  
© Stuart McIntyre

Exhibition views, 2023, Sense of Oneness, Rotterdam, Holland  
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