



TORA URUP

the Sun the Moon

Exhibition at Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris
23 May - 14 September, 2024

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Cover: *Tangerine Top*, *Blue Necked Sphere* and *Rotating Cerulean Blue*, 2023. Photo: Tora Urup



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. Urup explores the contrast between the materials as well as their inherent qualities, and while the artist 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

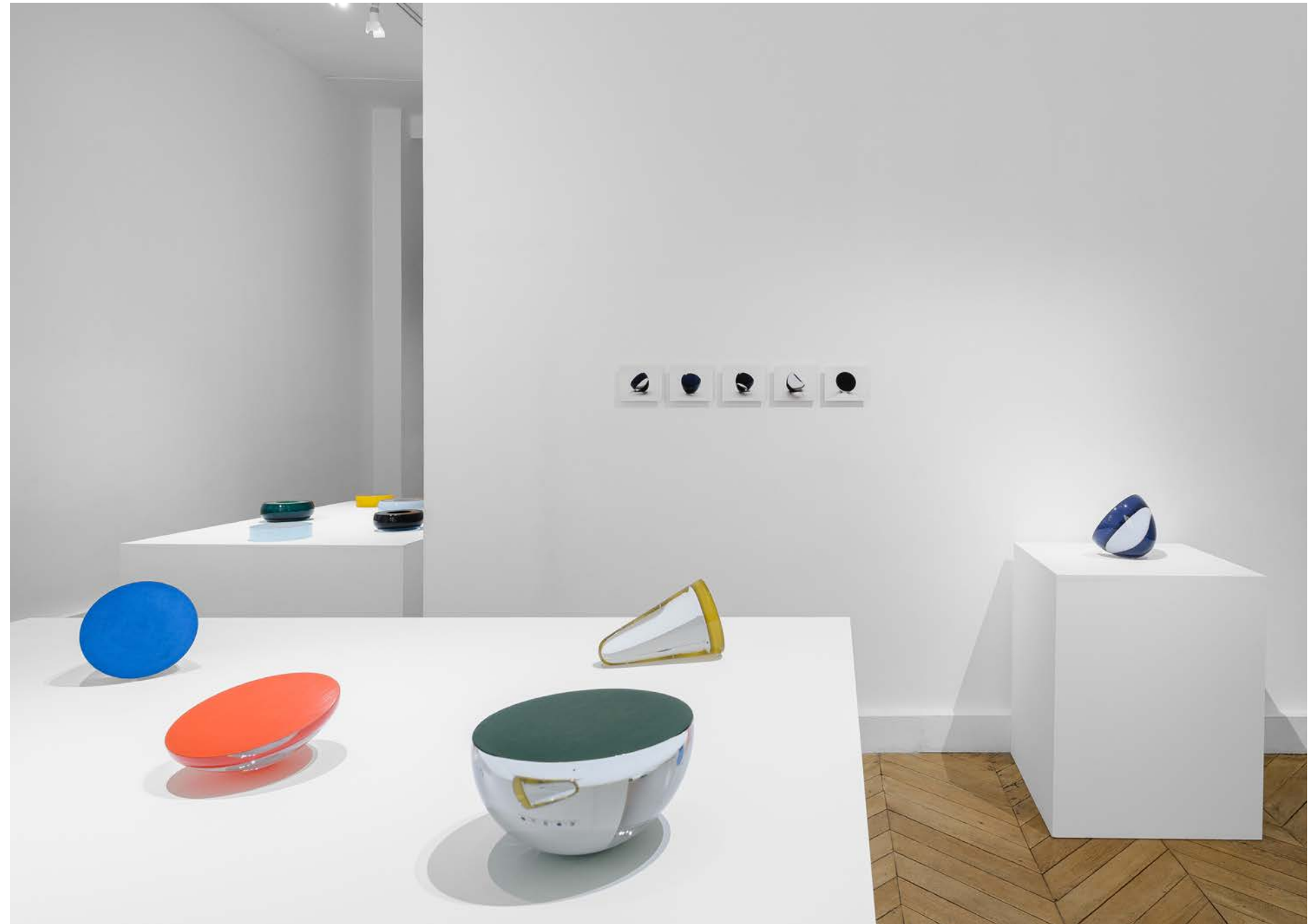
glass. While the solid glass reflects the light in multiple ways, the Japanese Urushi lacquer absorbs it, creating a feeling of infinite depth. By uniting these contrasting principles in the same object, Urup creates a vibrating feeling of dynamics related to our perception of light and shadow, transparency/opacity, space/surface, void/solid, illusion/form, light/heavy, cold/warm.

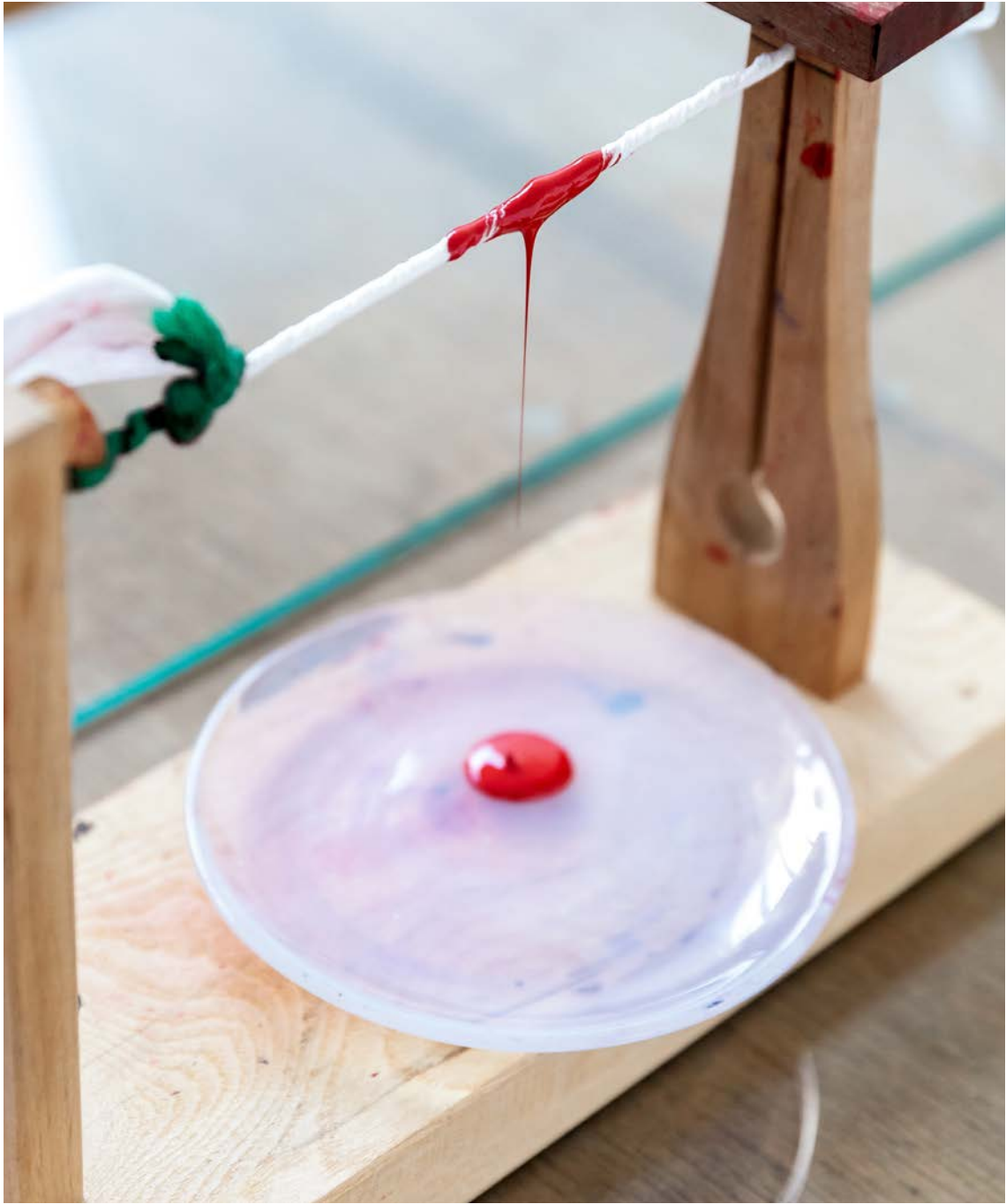
The exhibition equally includes examples of Urup’s earlier iconic works, such as the circular *“Multilayers”* and *“Sky Reflections”* in vibrant colors of thin opaque and thick transparent glass. These bodies of work reflect Urup’s initial investigations into the specific role played by color and material 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; **Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe (MKG)**, Hamburg, Germany; **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; **the Designmuseum Danmark** and **The Museum of Art and Design**, Helsinki, Finland.

Image: *the Sun the Moon*, 2024, Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France (exhibition view)





URUSHI



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 its perfectly smooth surface, 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





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

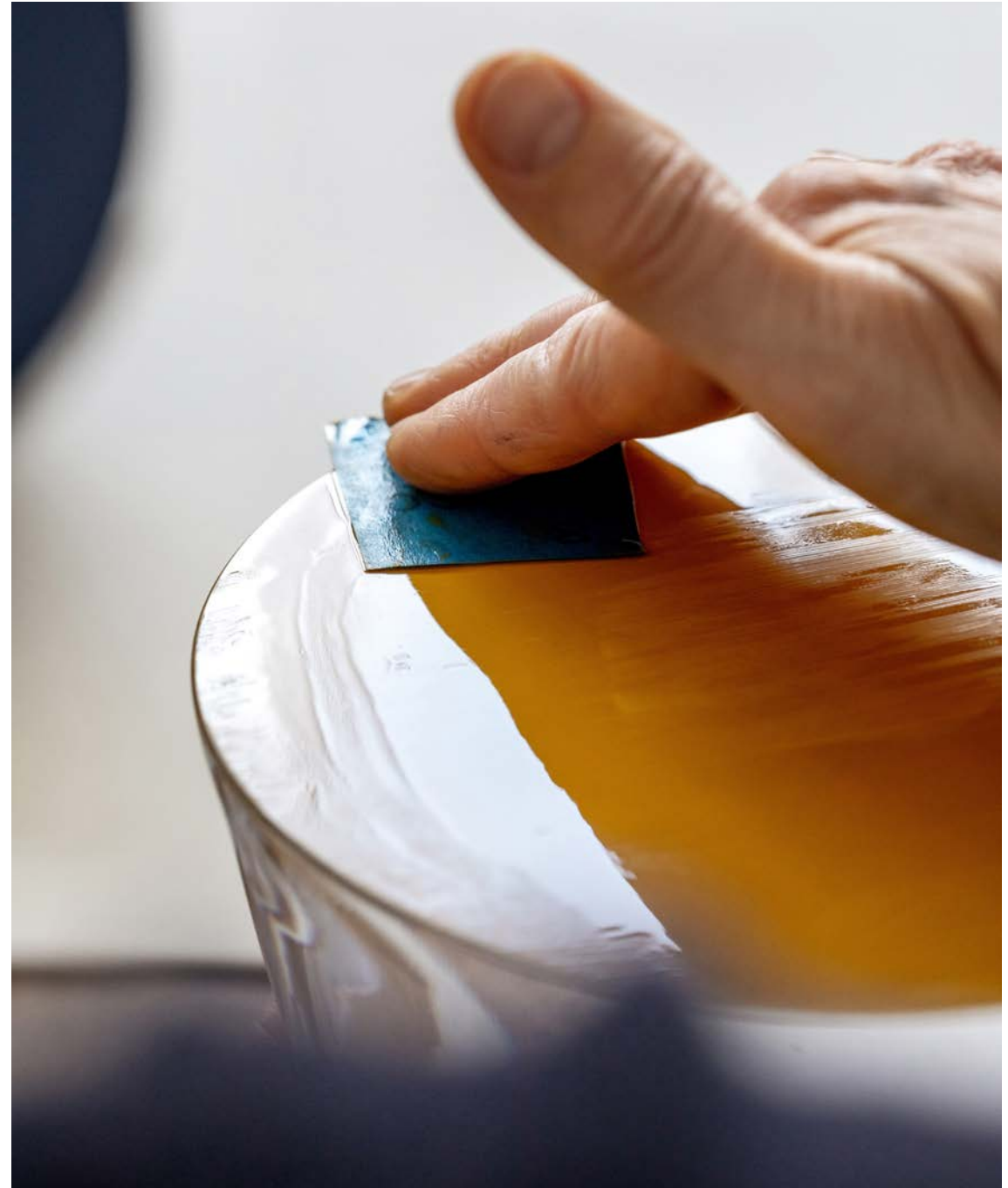
Ø17 x 25 cm

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

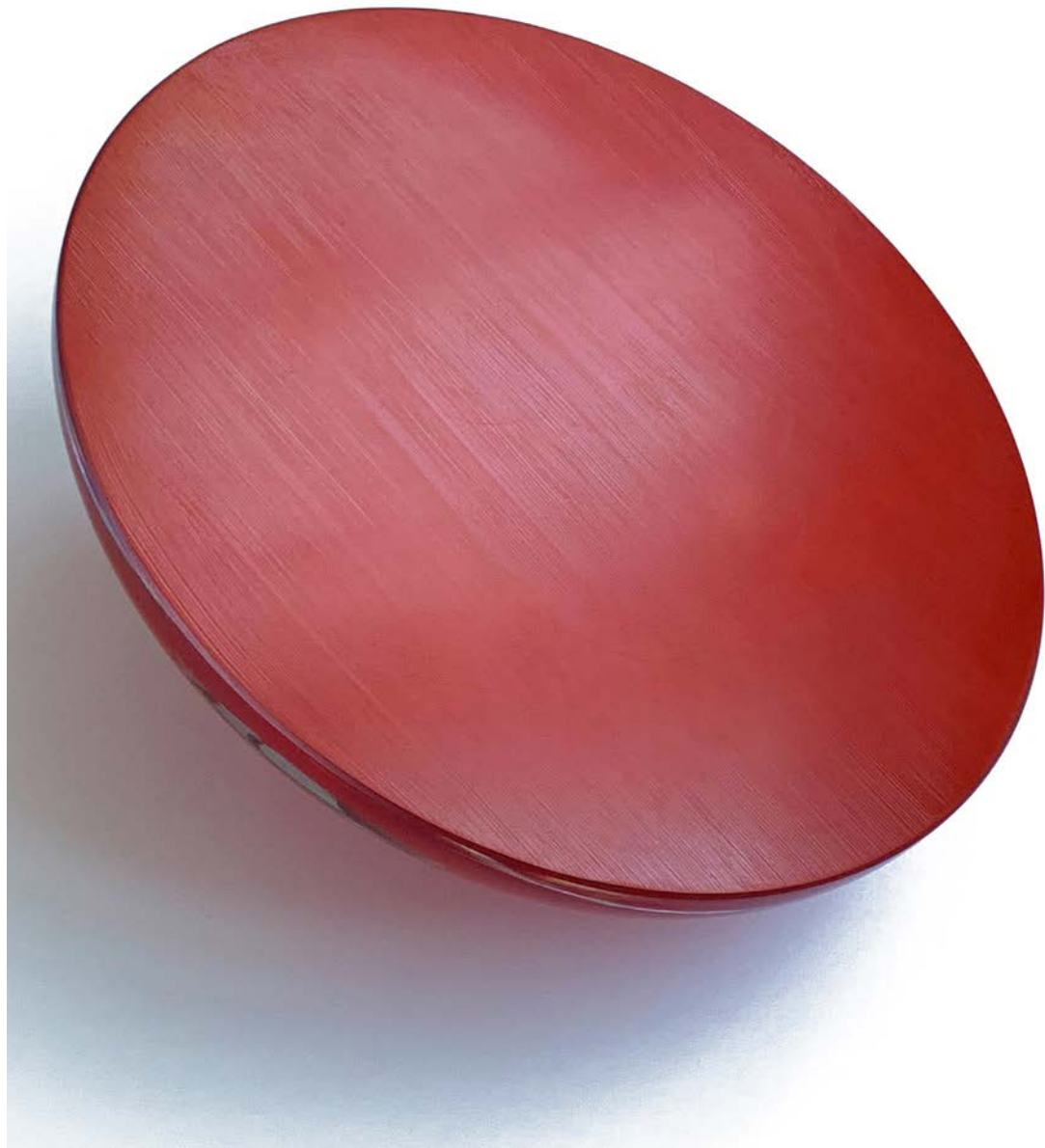
2023

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



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 something close and familiar; bowl, dish and plate, as well as something more abstract and 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



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

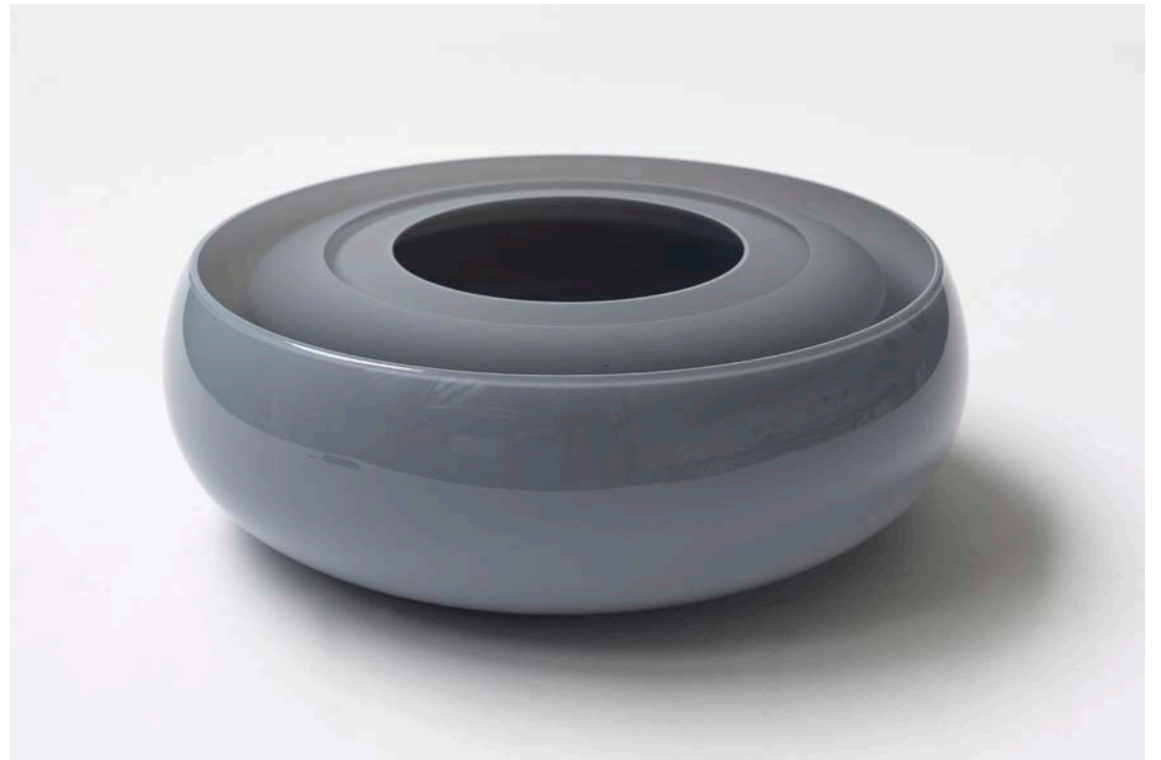
Ø28 x 10 cm

Unique piece





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





CYLINDER

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





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

Sense of Oneness, 2023, in duo with Quanbin Dong, gallery ChaxArtxRtm, Rotterdam, Holland (exhibition view)





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



Tora Urup + A Kassen, 2021, Stereo Exchange, Copenhagen, Denmark (exhibition view)

Tora Urup
the Sun the Moon



the Sun the Moon, 2024, Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France (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
PAD Paris Art + Design, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France

2018 *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

2017 *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 Miami 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

2016 *SILENCE*, Maison & Objet, Paris, France
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

2015 Art Genève, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Geneva, Switzerland
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 Miami 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,
Ebeltoft, 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		
	<i>Exempla</i> , exhibition and living workshop, Internationale Handwerksmesse, München, Germany		
	<i>Spectrum</i> , group show, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland		
	<i>Positionen des Gestaltens</i> , 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		
	PAD Paris Art + Design, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France		
2012	Design Miami / Basel with Galerie Maria Wettergren, Basel, Switzerland/Miami, USA		
	PAD London, with Galerie Maria Wettergren, London, UK		
	<i>From Denmark with Love</i> , Gallery PULS ceramics / Ampersand House, Brussels, Belgium		
	PAD Paris Art + Design, with Galerie Maria Wettergren. Paris, France		
	<i>Tumblers and Plates</i> , Mindcraft12 arr. by Danish Crafts, Milano, Italy		
2011	<i>Tumblers and Bowls</i> , Mindcraft11, arr. by Danish Crafts, Milano, Italy		
	<i>Pricewinners gallery</i> , Galerie Handwerk, München, Germany		
2009	<i>Tableau</i> , solo show, Butik for Borddækning, Copenhagen, Denmark		
	<i>ColorVision</i> , group show, Scottish gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland		
	<i>Nordic selected</i> , CODE 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark		
	<i>Entdeckt</i> , group show, Gallery Eva Maisch, Würzburg, Germany		
	<i>Modern Masters</i> , Groupshow arr. by Galerie Handwerk, München, Germany		
2008	Gallery Puls Ceramics, Brussels, Belgium		
	<i>Tora Urup</i> , solo show, Galleri Jytte Møller, Fredericia, Denmark		
2007	<i>Func Art</i> , Gallery Drudd & Køppe, Copenhagen, Denmark		
	<i>Epal</i> , group show, Reykjavik, Iceland		
	Group show with Jens Urup and Kristin Urup at Janusbygningen, West Jutland, Denmark		
	<i>Yellow</i> , Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland		
	Duo show with Thomas Bohle at Galerie Puls, Brussels, Belgium		
	<i>New Danish Glass "Glasss"</i> , Design Museum Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark		
	<i>New Danish Glass "Glasss"</i> , Holstebro Artmuseum, Denmark		
2006	<i>TU collection</i> , Maison & Objet, Paris, France		
	<i>TU collection</i> , Neon, Ambiente, Tokyo, Japan		
	<i>TU glassware collection for Kimura Glass</i> , Ambiente, Tokyo, Japan		
2005	<i>Kunstforeningen af 14. August</i> , Jubilee exhibition, Designmuseum Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark		
	<i>Tora Urup</i> , solo show, Gana Art Center, Seoul, South Korea		
2004	<i>Stuff</i> , Danish culture festival, Toronto harbour front, Canada		
	<i>Gallery A</i> , Tokyo Designer's week, Tokyo, Japan		
	Group show, Gallery Kullens Konsthandel, Helsingborg, Sweden		
	<i>Tora Urup</i> , solo show, Gallery Noriorio, Toyota, Japan		
	<i>TU collection with Talents</i> , Seoul, South Korea		
2003	<i>Tora Urup</i> , solo show, Clara Scremini Gallery, Paris, France		
			<i>Derfor</i> , arr. by Danish Crafts, Paustian, Copenhagen, Denmark
			<i>TU collection with Talents</i> , Ambiente, Tokyo
		2002	<i>TU collection with Talents</i> , Tendence, Messe Frankfurt, Germany
			<i>Tora Urup and Helle Helsinghoff</i> , Blås & Knåda, Stockholm, Sweden
			<i>Tora Urup</i> , solo show, Skandium, London, UK
			<i>La Tradition de Demain – Innovation au Quotidien</i> , arr. by Danish Crafts
			The Danish House, Paris, France
		1999	<i>A small exhibition</i> , Cite Design, with the Denmark festival in New York City, USA
		1998	<i>Valobaari – Lightbar</i> , Helsinki Light Festival, Esplanada, Helsinki, Finland
			<i>Kitchenware</i> , Exhibition of new designs for Royal Copenhagen with Ole Jensen, Ursula Much-Petersen og Inger-Louise Bach, Showroom Amager Torv & Arken Art Museum, Denmark
			<i>New Danish Glass</i> , National Glass Centre, Sunderland, UK
			<i>Living Design-Dialogue</i> , Gustav Lübcke Museum, Hamm, Germany
			<i>Klaipėda</i> , Riga, Lituania / Latvia, Estonia
		1996	<i>Danish Crafts and Design</i> , Museum Manége, St. Petersburg, Russia
			<i>Unika-66 kunsthåndværkere</i> , Design museum Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark
			<i>Art – Industry</i> , Royal Copenhagen Jubilee exhibition at Sophienholm, Denmark
			<i>Makes ceramic and glass scent jars</i> with Inger Louise Bach, Ole Jensen and Ursula Munch-Petersen for Morten Skriver and Christian Skeel's scent-installation at the Esbjerg Museum of Art.
		1995	<i>A Bathroom story by Anne Tophøj, Bente Skjøttgaard & Tora Urup</i> , Galleri Nørby, Copenhagen, Denmark
			<i>Dansk Design Aktuelt</i> , Sophienholm, Denmark
			<i>Living Design</i> , Covent dels Angeles, Barcelona & Circolo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain
		1992	<i>The Autumn Exhibition</i> , Charlottenborg Exhibition hall, Copenhagen, Denmark
		1991	<i>Never compromise on quality</i> , Spøttrup Castle, Denmark
			<i>Glasobjekter</i> , Overgaden, Institute of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark
		1990	<i>Design – Crafts or Industry?</i> , 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





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