



Emma Varga

Emma Varga is fascinated by the clarity and transparency of glass and the possibilities of freezing within it 3D images inspired by nature. Along with the new directions her work has lately taken, Varga has developed a new technique of fusing and casting glass sheets.

It is her past factory experience and vast repertoire of techniques that allows her to manipulate large slabs of glass, sometimes as many as 100 to 200 sheet of glass piled up and fused to create the 3D imagery she has visualized. Based on 9 years of experimentation, Varga's 'multiple layers fusing' technique enables her to create and gain control over the 3-dimensional images enclosed within the large transparent glass objects. The process begins with the cutting of thousands of glass elements from clear and coloured glass sheets according to complex 3-D plans. These are then fused together in stages, before they are ground and polished to reveal the finished sculpture with its 'fine details and veil-like structures floating in the sea of pure clear glass'. The latter extend Varga's consummate skills acquired from her long experience working with the traditional Venetian, Czech and Scandinavian glass techniques. Thus Varga extends and applies a multiplicity of glass art techniques to achieve her ends: sculptural objects of transformative allure that define - and commemorate - the emotional and geographic milestones of her life.

Her present large geometric forms express a depth of tranquility and repose, towering and pointing vertically, yet reveling in the celebration of colour and razor-sharp patterning. The very act of encasing monochromatic patterns within clear glass walls is itself an act of protection, of preservation: of memory, of colour and its associations, of acts of violence, of fear, and of love.

Dr Noris Ioannou: excerpt from the article 'Red: Emma Varga's (glass) art & life', Craft Arts International magazine, issue #67, July 2006. Dr Noris Ioannou is the author of eight books including the milestone text *Australian Studio Glass: The Movement, its Makers and Their Art* (Craftsman House, 1995). He is currently the Executive Director of Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre (Adelaide).

Curriculum Vitae - Edited Version

1952 Born in Ada, Yugoslavia, known as Emilija Marodic before 1995

Education & Professional Experience

1975 Graduated from the University of Applied Arts in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Bachelor of Arts (Visual & Applied Art), major(s) in Glass design and Ceramic sculpture.
 1978-91 Co-operated with Sebastian Art Gallery, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia. Over 150 glass design projects were commissioned by the gallery and produced for the market in large volume series.
 1977-91 Regular study tours to Museums and factories in most of European countries
 1981 Study tour (government grant) to Scandinavian glass factories and Design Centres.
 1992-95 Co-operated with Float Glass Factory in Pancevo, Yugoslavia. Worked with technological staff to develop new techniques to use float glass in architecture and interiors, exploring and supervising all phases of production.
 1988&1991 Participated in the 3rd & 4th Interglass Symposium NOVY BOR, Czechoslovakia
 1990 Annual Award of the Association of Applied Artists (Belgrade, Yugoslavia) for entire opus.
 1995 Moved to Australia, continuing to work as freelance glass artist.
 1995-2005 Currently developing multiple layers fusing and 'Aquarelle' technique of fusing / casting - techniques explored last 9 years, using thin glass sheets to set up layers, composed from tiny mosaic-like elements, to achieve 3 dimensional image inside the fused / cast sculptural object.
 2004 Established SOMETHING DIFFERENT - Creative Laboratory in Sydney, Collaroy
 Guest teacher at Creative Glass in Zürich(CH).
 2005 SOMETHING DIFFERENT 2005 – Ongoing Communication; Guest teacher in Zagreb (Croatia) and at Creative Glass in London, introducing 'Aquarelle' technique. Lectures and presentations at Singapore Art Festival, Museum of Applied Art and University of Art in Belgrade, Serbia

Selected Major Exhibitions

2006 MELBOURNE, Axia Modern Art, Solo exhibition, 10 YEARS IN AUSTRALIA, 3-18. August
 BELGRADE (Serbia&Montenegro), Museum of Applied Art, DREAMTIME DOWN UNDER, Retrospective solo exhibition, 8.June-8.July
 2005 LONDON, Victoria & Albert Museum, IMPORT EXPORT GLOBAL, September-December
 CANBERRA, Craft ACT Gallery, RANAMOK FINALISTS 2005, August
 PHILADELPHIA (US), National Liberty Museum, GLASS DOWN UNDER, August-September
 HONG KONG, Gaffer Studio Glass Gallery, AUSTRALIAN GLASS, May
 SINGAPORE, Singapore Art Festival, AUSTRALIAN GLASS, June
 ADELAIDE, Light Square Gallery, SOUTHERN LIGHTS, Ausglass Member's Show, May
 SYDNEY, Raglan Gallery, TOWARD THE INNER, May-June
 MELBOURNE, Craft Victoria Gallery, MIND MAPS, April-May
 SYDNEY, Manly Art Gallery, MATERIAL INSTINCTS, Ausglass Member's Show, April-May
 KECSKEMET, (HU), Museion, 1st TRIENNIAL of SILICATE ARTS, March-May
 SYDNEY, 1000°C Gallery Avalon, COAST LINES, May-June
 SYDNEY, Object Galleries, GLOBAL LOCAL, January-March
 2004 BUDAPEST (HU), Glass Pyramid Gallery, SOMETHING DIFFERENT - AUSTRALIAN GLASS SYDNEY, Quadrivium gallery, SOMETHING DIFFERENT...
 2003 MELBOURNE, Axia Modern Art, CAST & KILN FORMED GLASS
 2002 TAIWAN, Tainan, Taipei and Taichung, MITSUKOSHI ART FESTIVAL
 SYDNEY, Quadrivium, DIALOGUE
 SYDNEY and WASHINGTON (US), RANAMOK Glass Prize Finalists
 2001 MELBOURNE, Axia Modern Art, AUSTRALIAN GLASS... THE CUTTING EDGE
 SYDNEY, Object Galleries, FORMAL QUALITIES
 SYDNEY, Quadrivium, GLASS ART IN AUSTRALIA
 2000 MELBOURNE, Axia Modern Art, FUSIONS
 SYDNEY, Quadrivium Gallery, QUADRIVIUM'S FINEST.
 PITTSBURGH (US), Morgan Gallery, BUY/BY WOMEN
 1973-2002 11 solo exhibitions, the most significant: Retrospective exhibition-15 YEARS OF WORK IN GLASS, Museum of Applied Arts in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, 1989.

Works Included In Following Collections

The Museum of Applied Art in Belgrade, Yugoslavia; Glassmuseum Ebeltoft, Denmark; The Arrange Design Foundation, Miami, USA; The Glassgalerie Immenhausen, Germany; The Interglass Symposium Collection, Czech Republic, Australian Art Trust, Melbourne, Australia and numerous private collections in Australia, Europe and USA.

