



## EMMA VARGA

1952. Born in Ada, Yugoslavia

### SELECTED MAJOR EXHIBITIONS:

- 2012 *SOFA CHICAGO*, Represented by Kirra Galleries - November 2012  
*MELBOURNE*, Kirra Galleries, Director's Choice - October 2012  
*CANBERRA*, Canberra Glassworks, Ranamok Finalist 2012, August  
*MADISON (WI, USA)*, Chasen Museum, *SPARK and FLAME*, 50 Years of Art Glass, Apr-August  
*NEW YORK*, Bonham's Urban Glass '35 for 35' Auction 5<sup>th</sup> April
- 2011 *MELBOURNE*, Kirra Galleries, *SEGUE*, November-December 2011  
*SOFA CHICAGO*, Represented by Kirra Galleries  
*AUCKLAND, NZ*, Masterworks Gallery, *TOP DRAWER*, September-October 2011  
*CANBERRA*, Canberra Glassworks, *RANAMOK FINALISTS 2011*, August-September 2011  
*NEW YORK*, Chashama Gallery, *FETE DE VERRE*, March-April 2011  
*SYDNEY*, Sabbia Gallery, *GEOMETRY*, Group Exhibition, January-February 2011
- 2010 *SOFA CHICAGO*, Represented by Kirra Galleries  
*SYDNEY*, Manly Art Gallery, *LONG REEF ROCKS*, solo exhibition, December-Jan.  
*MELBOURNE*, Axia Modern Art, *CAPTURING LIGHT*, November  
*CANBERRA*, Canberra Glass Works, *RANAMOK FINALISTS 2010*, August  
*SYDNEY*, Sabbia Gallery, *INTO THE GREEN*, solo exhibition, August  
*SYDNEY*, Sabbia Gallery, *WINTER*, group exhibition, June-July  
*MELBOURNE*, Kirra Gallery, *FROM THE GARDEN*, solo exhibition, March  
*PALM DESERT, CA*, Imago Galleries, *OZ - Australian and New Zealand studio glass*, February
- 2009 *SYDNEY*, Arterreal Gallery, *CATS & DOGS*, December  
*PALM DESERT, CA*, presentation of *NEW WORKS*, Imago Galleries, November  
*SARASOTA, FL*, *NEW WORKS*, solo exhibition, Hodgell Gallery, November  
*CHICAGO*, *SOFA Chicago*, Represented by Kirra Gallery, Melbourne, November  
*AUCKLAND, NZ*, Masterworks Gallery, *CATS & DOGS*, October  
*LAKE McQUARIE*, Lake McQuarie Art Gallery, *CRAFTING LANDSCAPE*, 4 artists, October  
*SYDNEY*, Manly Art Gallery, *IN PARADISE*, local artists exhibition, September  
*CANBERRA*, Ranamok Finalists 2009, Canberra Glass Works, August  
*NEW YORK*, *SOFA New York*, April  
*ROYAL OAK, MI*, Habatat Galleries, 37<sup>th</sup> Annual International Glass Invitational Exhibition, April-May  
*PALM SPRINGS (CA)*, Palm Springs Art Museum, *CONTEMPORARY GLASS*, Reinstallation of Kaplan/Ostergaard Glass Collection, March
- 2008 *CANBERRA*, GlassWorks, *RANAMOK FINALISTS 2008*, August  
*NEW YORK*, *SOFA 2008*, represented by 'Compendium Gallery (NZ)', May  
*SYDNEY*, Sabbia Gallery, *VIBRANT*, solo show, May-June  
*WAGGA WAGGA*, Art Gallery, *CROSSFIRE*, May-July
- 2007 *CHICAGO*, *SOFA 2007*, represented by 'Compendium Gallery (NZ)', November  
*SARASOTA, FL (US)*, Hodgell Gallery, *ONE FINE DAY*, solo show, November  
*ADELAIDE*, JamFactory' Gallery, *THE STORY ABOUT RED*, solo exhibition, Oct-December  
The *INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION of GLASS - KANAZAWA 2007*, Japan, October-November  
*LONDON*, ART LONDON, represented by 'Glass Artist's Gallery (Sydney)', October  
*AUCKLAND (NZ)*, Compendium Gallery, *LAVA RED*, *GRASS GREEN*, *OCEAN BLUE*, solo exhibition, August  
*WAGGA WAGGA*, Art Gallery, *HERE THEY CAME*, June  
*PALM SPRINGS (CA)*, Palm Springs Art Museum, *CONTEMPORARY GLASS*, Inaugural exhibition of Kaplan/Ostergaard Glass Collection, March-April  
*SYDNEY*, Glass Artist's Gallery, *ENCORE*, March  
*SYDNEY*, Sabbia Gallery, *MASTERS 2007*, January
- 2006 *LJUBLJANA (Slovenia)*, Marjan Lovšin Gallery, *OBJECTS*, solo exhibition, Sept-November  
*CANBERRA*, School of Art Gallery, *RANAMOK FINALISTS 2006*, August  
*MELBOURNE*, Axia Modern Art, Solo exhibition, *10 YEARS IN AUSTRALIA*, August  
*BELGRADE (Serbia)*, Museum of Applied Art, *DREAMTIME DOWN UNDER*, Retrospective solo exhibition, June-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

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- 2005 KECSKEMET, (HU), Museion, 1<sup>st</sup> 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
- 1998 SYDNEY, Object Galleries, Customs House, MAPPING IDENTITY
- 1995 MELBOURNE, Australia, Meat Market Craft Centre, GLASS IN AUSTRALIA
- 1994 BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Applied Arts Gallery, CONTEMPORARY GLASS ART
- 1990 TOKYO, Presentation of the MAGIC GLASSTOWN BELGRADE
- 1989 LIEGE, Belgium, CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN SCULPTURE IN CRYSTAL AND GLASS
- 1987 BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Sebastian Art Gallery, YUGOSLAVIA'S TOP DESIGNERS
- 1985 IMMENHAUSEN, Germany, Glass Exhibition at the International workshop  
BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, the National Museum, THE OCTOBER SHOW LAUREATES
- 1984 MIAMI, Florida/USA, International Glass Design Exhibition GLASS THAT WORKS
- 1983 VALENCIA, Spain, International Glass Festival VICOINTER
- 1981 KASSEL, Germany, International Exhibition GLASSKUNST '81
- 1979-82 CORNING, NY, Corning Museum of Glass; NEW YORK, Metropolitan Museum;  
WASHINGTON (DC), Renwick Gallery; TOLEDO (OH), Toledo Art Museum; PARIS;  
LONDON; TOKYO; World Glass Exhibition NEW GLASS (touring)
- 1977 COBURG, Germany, European Glass Exhibition COBURGER GLASPREIS
- 1975-95 BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Art Association's MAY and OCTOBER ART SHOW

ACTIVITY AND AWARDS (selected major only):

- 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.
- 1975-2009 Worked as freelance glass artist
- 1976-91 Co-operated with Glass Factory in Paracin, Yugoslavia exploring all kinds of glass techniques using  
them for the production of large glass series for the market and to create unique art work
- 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.
- 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 technical 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 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 1996-2011 Currently developing multiple layers fusing / casting - techniques to create glass objects.
- 2004 Established 'SOMETHING DIFFERENT - Creative Laboratory' in Sydney, Collaroy  
Guest teacher at Creative Glass in Zürich(CH) and Budapest (HU).
- 2005 Guest teacher at Creative Glass in London. Lectures and presentations at Singapore Art Festival,  
Museum of Applied Art and University of Art in Belgrade, Serbia
- 2006 Recipient of Australia Council Visual Arts Grant for creating new work for solo exhibitions 'The  
Story About Red' at JamFactory in 2007 and SOFA Chicago 2007.
- 2007 Guest teacher at Glass Furnace, Istanbul (Turkey) and Master class Exemplar Glass (UK)  
Lecture & presentation at Sydney College of Art and Ringling College of Art & Design, Sarasota,  
FL
- 2008 Guest teacher at Wanganui, New Zealand, Michigan (USA), and at Glass Furnace in Istanbul  
(Turkey)
- 2009 Guest teacher (Masterclass), Wanganui, New Zealand  
Winner of Art Alliance Excellence Award at 37 International Invitational Exhibition at Habatat  
Galleries, Royal Oak, MI (USA)  
Presentations at Palm Springs Art Museum, CA, April  
SOMETHING DIFFERENT 2009 - 'Cats & Dogs' in Sydney, Collaroy, January-December
- 2010 Guest Teacher at Glass Furnace (Turkey), August
- 2011 Workshop(s) at Ausglass Conference in Sydney, January  
Guest Teacher at Glass Furnace (Turkey), June
- 2012 Recipient of Australia Council Visual Arts Grant for new work based on research on Antarctica for 3  
solo exhibitions at Kirra Galleries, Canberra Glassworks and JamFactory in 2013-2014.

Emma Varga cont.

**WORKS INCLUDED IN FOLLOWING COLLECTIONS:**

PowerHouse Museum (Decorative Arts & Design), Sydney  
Australian Art Trust, Melbourne;  
National Art Glass Collection, Wagga Wagga, Australia;  
Kaplan/Ostergaard Glass Collection at Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA;  
The Museum of Applied Art in Belgrade, Yugoslavia;  
Glassmuseum Ebeltoft, Denmark;  
The Arrango Design Foundation, Miami, USA;  
The Interglass Symposium Collection, Czech Republic;  
The Glassgalerie Immenhausen, Germany;  
The Interglass Symposium Collection  
and numerous private collections in Australia, USA, Europe, Asia and Africa.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:**

2010 Long Reef, Catalogue for solo exhibition at Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney Essay  
By Eva Czernis-Ryl  
2009 Glass Quarterly (New York), Essay by Grace Cochrane, Winter edition #117  
Craft Arts International, Cats & Dogs, Ev Czernis-Ryl, Issue #77  
2007 The Story About Red, Catalogue for retrospective solo exhibition at JamFactory, Adelaide  
Essay by Noris Ioannou, short stories by Emma Varga; ISBN 978-0-646-48211-8  
2006 Dreamtime Down Under, Catalogue for retrospective solo exhibition in June-July 2006; published  
by the Museum of Applied Art in Belgrade, Serbia; Essays by Grace Cochrane  
and Ljuba Gamulin; ISBN 86-7415-106-X  
Craft Arts International, Red: Emma Varga's (glass) art & life, Dr. Noris Ioannou, Issue #67  
2005 Margot Osborne: Australian Glass Today, 2005, ISBN 1-86254-668-1  
2004 Craft Arts International, Something Different..., Ivana Jirasek, Issue #61  
Craft Arts International, Rainbow bridge in Budapest, Fekete Gyorgy, Issue #62  
Object Magazine, Global Local, Brian Parkes & Michelle Hespe, issue #45  
2001 Object/CD ROM, Contemporary Australian Design,  
1999 Object Magazine, Mapping Identity, Noel Frankham, Issue #3  
1998 Craft Arts International, Memories and first impressions, Beverley Kenna, Issue #44  
1975-2009 Catalogues for solo & group exhibitions, publications in Europe

**REPRESENTED BY:**

Sabbia Gallery, Sydney, Australia  
Kirra Galleries, Melbourne, Australia  
Imago Galleries, Palm Desert, CA, USA  
Hodgell Gallery, Sarasota, FL, USA  
Masterworks Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand  
Gallery of the Museum of Applied Art, Belgrade, Serbia  
Marjan Lovsin Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Studio Glass, Hong Kong  
Vitria Gallery, Singapore

**NOTES ON TECHNIQUE**

The technique of 'multiple layers fusing' has been gradually developed by Emma Varga during the past 14 years. It enables her to create and to gain control over three dimensional images inside large transparent glass objects. To make each of these sculptural objects, it is necessary to cut thousands of tiny glass elements from clear and transparent coloured glass sheets and combine them with glass frits and stringers. The sculptural glass objects are made from 20-200 thin transparent glass layers; glass mosaic elements, colored frits and stringers are assembled on each sheet, according to a complicated three-dimensional plan. These are then fused together in stages. It takes two weeks to fire and slowly cool down large sculptural works, then a further two weeks to grind and polish all of the surfaces to perfection. Only then it is finally possible to see the inside; all the fine details and veil-like structures floating in the sea of clear glass.

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