

Richard Rackham - Glass Artist

I have been working with the art of glass making for nearly 40 years. Right from day one I was seduced by this magical glowing material and its unending possibilities.

In 1982, after five years study, I started Eldoluft Glass Studio in Båstad, Sweden.

I work with both one-off Art as well as handcrafted functional ware. In my handcrafted everyday pieces I aim to balance function with aesthetics. The feel in your hand is as important as the look.

When I create my art my focus moves from the functional to that of inner feeling and expression of thought.

In order to be able to portray these thoughts I use a totally different approach, both of method and technique. This often requires inventing or modifying a process. An example of this can be seen in my own "Graal - alla prima" technique, which I have developed in order to give a dynamic watercolour-like feeling to the glass.

The "Graal" technique existed already and is used to create layer upon layer of coloured glass which, once cooled, can be cut or engraved in order to build up patterns in different colours. The result I feel is often lacking in emotion and "glassiness" and feels dead though precise.

The "Alla prima" expression comes from the painting world and refers to a painting that is finished all at once without allowing the paint to dry in between layers. In my case, I work these coloured layers of glass while they are still hot and fluid. It is decidedly more risky but at its best it gives a superior more dynamic effect.

I have always seen glass in a sculptural light, and enjoy combining it together with other materials such as sheet metal, wire net, thread, rubber or sand. My recent works tackle existential topics as well as reflections based on travels to various parts of the world. The pieces are often inspired by organic forms and fetch their palette of shapes from both land and water. They speak for themselves.

Education & Experience

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1975-79	West Surrey College of Art & Design, England
1980	Orrefors Glass school,
1980-81	Orrefors Glass factory, Sandviks Glasbruk,
1982	Started ELDOLUFT GLASS STUDIO,
1987-88	Artist in Residence, Sweden Center Foundation, Japan
2000 -10	Artistic leader "Glass Design", Växjö Universitet
2000	Selected Artist on Swedish Polar Research Secr. Arctic Expedition
2000 -	Member of Glass Akademy, 2006-08 Chairman
2002	Mentor to "Young Talent- Ned Cantrell", CERFAV, France
2010	Blichwechsel, Hovdala Slott
2012	30 year jubilee at Eldoluft Glass Studio

Represented

National Museum, Stockholm,
Röhsska Museum, Gothenburg,
Museum of Modern Art, Sao Paulo, Brazil
National Museum of Arts & Crafts, Copenhagen,
Trondheims Museum of Arts & Crafts, , Norway
Jan van Togt Museum, Holland
Statens Konstråd
Swedish Glass Museum, Växjö,
Kanazawa International Exhibition, Japan
Sweden Centre Foundation, Japan
as well as in private & public collections

Selected Exhibitions

LILLA GALLERIET, HÖGANÄS • FALSTERBO STATIONSHUS • MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, SAO PAULO, BRASIL • RETRETTI CENTER, FIN-LAND • GALLERI MOMENT, ÄNGELHOLM • ILLUMS BOLIGHUS, KÖPENHAMN • KONSTHANTVERKARNA, STOCKHOLM • LIBRARIA, STOCKHOLM • KRAPPERUPS KONSTHALL, HÖGANÄS • LOFTET, MALMÖ • GALLERI ARGO, STOCKHOLM • GALLERY NILSSON, NEW YORK • LINE OF SCANDINAVIA, LONDON • NORRTÄLJE KONSTHALL • GALLERI "F15", MOSS, NORGE • GALLERI GAMLA STAN, STOCK-HOLM • GALLERI IKAROS, GÖTEBORG • GALLERI VERSALEN, SUNDSVALL • GALLERY ACKERMANN, EKENÄS, FINLAND • KULTURHUSET, STOCKHOLM • GLASMUSEUM, VÄXJÖ • STUDIOGLAS GALLERI, BASEL, SCHWEIZ • BLÅS & KNÅDA, STOCKHOLM • GALLERI GRÅ POR-TEN, VARBERG • GALLERI NORRE PORT, HALMSTAD • LILJEVALCHS KONSTHALL, STOCKHOLM • NRC, SAPPORO, JAPAN • RÖHSSKA KONSTSLÖJDSMUSEUM, GÖTEBORG • GALLERI UMBRA II, MALMÖ • GALLERY IKAROS, GÖTEBORG, KONSTHANTVERKARNA, STOCK-HOLM, NIELSEN GALLERI, MALMÖ • SANDVIKENS KONSTHALL • SÖDERTÄLJE KONSTHALL • ART GLASS CENTRE, SCHALKWIJK, HOL-LAND • NORDISKA MINISTERRÅDET, KÖPENHAMN, VARBERGS MUSEUM • ARKIV FOR SWEDISH DESIGN, KALMAR • GALERIE ROB VAN DEN DOEL, DEN HAAG, NL • SAMKONST, LANDSKRONA KONSTHALL • KRISTIANSTAD LÄNS MUSEET • NOLHAGA SLOTT, ALINGSÅS, STADSHUSET, ÄNGELHOLM • SWEDEN CENTER, JAPAN • AZABU GALLERY, TOKYO • NORRKÖPINGS STADSMUSEUM, VIKINGSBERGS MU-SEUM, HBG • GALLERI KOCH, STENUGNSSUND • GALLERY ÄNGELN, LUND, • HÄRJA PRÄSTGÅRD, TIDAHOLM • GALLERI LILLA UPPÅKRA • 5:E GLASTRIENNAL LUXEMBOURG & BELGIEN • GLASSKUL PTUR TRIENNAL, STENINGE SLOTT • HADELAND GLASSKULPTUR, NORGE • FORTET GODNATT, KARLSKRONA • MAGASINET, SMYGEHUK • CERFAV, INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM, FRANCE • GALLERI BERGSTRÖM, JÖNKÖPING • SLOTTET, PARTILLE • STADSGALLERI, HALMSTAD • BRANDT CONTEMPORARY GLASS, TORSHÄLLA • MUSEUM OF ARTS AND CRAFTS, COPENHAGEN • GALLERY ROB VAN DEN DOEL, HOLLAND • GALLERI RASMUS, COPENHAGEN, KÖLDING, OCH ODENSE • GUMMIFORM, TRELLEBORG MUSEUM • LIDINGÖ KONSTHALL • AMELAND, NL, • HKF, HALMSTAD • BLICHWECHSEL, HOVDALA SLOTT •