

House of Seiko

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Marvin Lipofsky

March 22 - April 27, 2025



Marvin Lipofsky

September 1, 1938 – January 15, 2016

born: Elgin, Illinois

Education:

University of Illinois, 1962

University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1964

Was an American glass artist who helped reinvent the challenging material of glass through experiments in scale, color, and technique. Lipofsky studied ceramics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign before turning to glass in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was one of the six students that Studio Glass founder Harvey Littleton instructed in a program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall of 1962 and spring of 1963. He was a central figure in the dissemination of the American Studio Glass Movement, introducing it to California through his tenure as an instructor at the University of California, Berkeley, and the California College of Arts and Crafts.

Lipofsky was an instructor for seminars and workshops at art and craft schools, including the Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwood, Washington; Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio; Southwest Craft Center in San Antonio, Texas; Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine; San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, California and the Art Department of the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Throughout his six-decade career, Lipofsky traveled to glass factories in Europe, Asia, the Soviet Union, and Mexico, where he took photographs of glass worldwide, led workshops, and crafted new pieces with local glassblowing experts. In this environment, Lipofsky collaborated with a glass master and teams of glass handlers in various factories to create larger multi-colored sculptures, which were shipped back to his studio in Berkeley, where he finished them using a variety of coldworking processes, such as sandblasting, polishing, and grinding.

Many of Lipofsky's works are colorful "bubbles" of glass. Often semi-translucent, they allow the viewer to examine their depths. He is best known for the organic form of his pieces. Lipofsky is well known for having devoted his career in glass to endless variations on the turbulent, broken bubble form. Corning Museum of Glass curator Tina Oldknow has written that she admires Lipofsky "for his devotion to material and form. His non-objective vessels break apart and rearrange the blown glass mass while retaining the breathy, ephemeral quality, one of the medium's most intriguing characteristics."

Notable awards garnered by the artist include a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass in Chicago, Illinois, in 2005 and a Masters of the Medium Award from the James Renwick Alliance, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, in 2003. He was named an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Glass Art Society in 1986 and a California Living Treasure in Sacramento, California, in 1985. The artist was the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts grants in 1976 and 1974.

Lipofsky's work can be found in the collections of the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Oakland Museum, Oakland, California; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City; Philadelphia Museum of Art and Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio. Overseas, his work is in Glasmuseet Ebeltoft in Denmark; Frauenau Glass Museum, Germany; Museum Bellerive in Zürich, Switzerland; Museum Boijmans van Beuningen in Rotterdam, Holland; National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan; and Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art in Sapporo, Japan.

This checklist includes Lipofsky's final works that are commercially available, as almost all that have remained since his death have been institutionally acquired.



Marvin Lipofsky

CV

Public Collections:

Museum of Arts and Design (American Craft Museum; Museum of Contemporary Crafts), NYC, New York
Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Oakland Museum of California (Oakland Art Museum), Oakland, California
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (San Francisco Museum of Art), San Francisco, California
Musee D'Art Contemporain, Skopje, Yugoslavia
The Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio
National Museum of Glass, Leerdam, Holland
Museum Boymans-Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Holland
Stedelijke Museum, Amsterdam, Holland
Museum Bellerive, Zurich, Switzerland
Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, New York
Museum Für Kunsthandwerk, Frankfurt, Germany
Kunsthau AM Museum, Koln, Germany
Kunstsammlungen Der Veste Coburg, Coburg, Germany
Musee de Design ET D'Arts Appliques/Contemporains (Musee des Arts Decoratifs) Lausanne, Switzerland
The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan
Umeleckoprumslove Muzeum, Prague, Czechoslovakia
St. Louis Museum of Art, St. Louis, Missouri
Auckland City Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
The Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit, Michigan
Musee des Arts Decoratifs (Fonds National d'Art Contemporain) Paris, France
Hokkaido Government Prefecture, Sapporo, Japan
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania
International Glass Symposium Collection, Crystalex, Novy Bor, Czech Republic, 1982 II; 1985 III; 1988 IV;
1991 V; 1994 VI; 1997 VII 2000; Crystalex, A.S./Lemberk Castle
Zsolnay Museum, Pecs, Hungary
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana
Museum of Decorative Arts, Sofia, Bulgaria
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California
All-Russia Decorative, Applied and Folk Art Museum, Moscow, Russia
National Museum in Wroclaw, Wroclaw, Poland
Montreal Museum of Decorative Arts, Montreal, Canada
The Hsinchu Cultural Center, Hsinchu, Taiwan
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York
Renwick Gallery, National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Awards and Honors:

- 1974/76 National Endowment for the Arts, Fellowship
- 1983 Honorific Prize, Viconiter '83 1st International Exhibit of Contemporary Glass, Valencia, Spain
- 1985 "California Living Treasure," Creative Arts League of Sacramento, Sacramento, California
- 1986 Honorary Life Member, Glass Art Society, Annual Conference, Los Angeles, California
- 1989 Distinguished Graduate Award for Outstanding Achievement in Art, Barrington High School, Barrington, Illinois
- 1991 College of Fellows, The American Craft Council, New York, New York
- 1998 Trustee emeritus, American Crafts Council, New York, New York
- 2002 Honorary Award for Inspiration and Instigation of the Bay Area Glass Community, California Glass Exchange, San Jose, California
- 2003 Master of the Medium Award, James Renwick Alliance, Washington, D.C.
- 2005 Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass 2005 Artist Award
- 2009 Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award, Glass Art Society, 39th Annual GAS Conference, Corning, New York
- 2016 Wisconsin Visual Art Achievement Award, Museum of Wisconsin Art, West Bend, Wisconsin

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

- 1969 Museum of Contemporary Crafts, New York, New York
- 1969 Utah Museum of Fine Arts, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 1970 Stedelijke Museum, Amsterdam, Holland
- 1974 California Institute of Technology, Baxter Art Gallery, Pasadena, California
- 1978 Gallery Maronie, Kyoto, Japan
- 1979 University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware
- 1981 Habatat Galleries, Lathrup Village, Michigan
- 1982 Betsy Rosenfield Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
- 1985 Ree Schonlau Gallery, Omaha, Nebraska
- 1985 Holsten Galleries, Palm Beach, Florida
- 1989 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Artist Gallery (2 Person Exhibit), Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, California
- 1991 Leo Kaplan Modern, New York, New York
- 1996 Marvin Lipofsky's World of Glass Show: An Historical Retrospective, Kennedy Art Center Gallery
- 1996 Holy Names College, Oakland, California
- 2003 Marvin Lipofsky: A Glass Odyssey, Retrospective, Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, California
- 2005 Marvin Lipofsky: A Glass Odyssey, Fresno Art Museum, Fresno, California
- 2006 Marvin Lipofsky: A Journey in Glass, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California
- 2009 Marvin Lipofsky: Survey 1969-2009, Micaela Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 Marvin Lipofsky: Survey 1969-2009, 555 Concourse Gallery, SF, CA
- 2015 Duane Reed Gallery, Marvin Lipofsky, SOFA Chicago, Illinois

- 2017 Richmond Art Center, Marvin Lipofsky: Molten Matter/Fantastic Form, Richmond, California
- 2018 World Without Borders: The Art of Marvin Lipofsky, Jay Musler Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 2021 Craft Front & Center: What Can You Do with Glass?, Museum of Arts & Design, NYC, New York
- 2021 Marvin Lipofsky: International Studio Glass, SFO Museum, San Francisco, California

Checklist



Czech Flowers #8, 1991

Egermann-Exbor S.P., Novy Bor, Czech Republic

Sandblasted glass

10" x 16" x 14"



Czech Flowers #9, 1992

Egermann-Exbor S.P., Novy Bor, Czech Republic

Sandblasted glass

12" x 17" x 18 1/2"

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Czech Flowers #12, 1992

Egermann-Exbor S.P., Novy Bor, Czech Republic

Sandblasted glass

12 1/2" x 18" x 18"



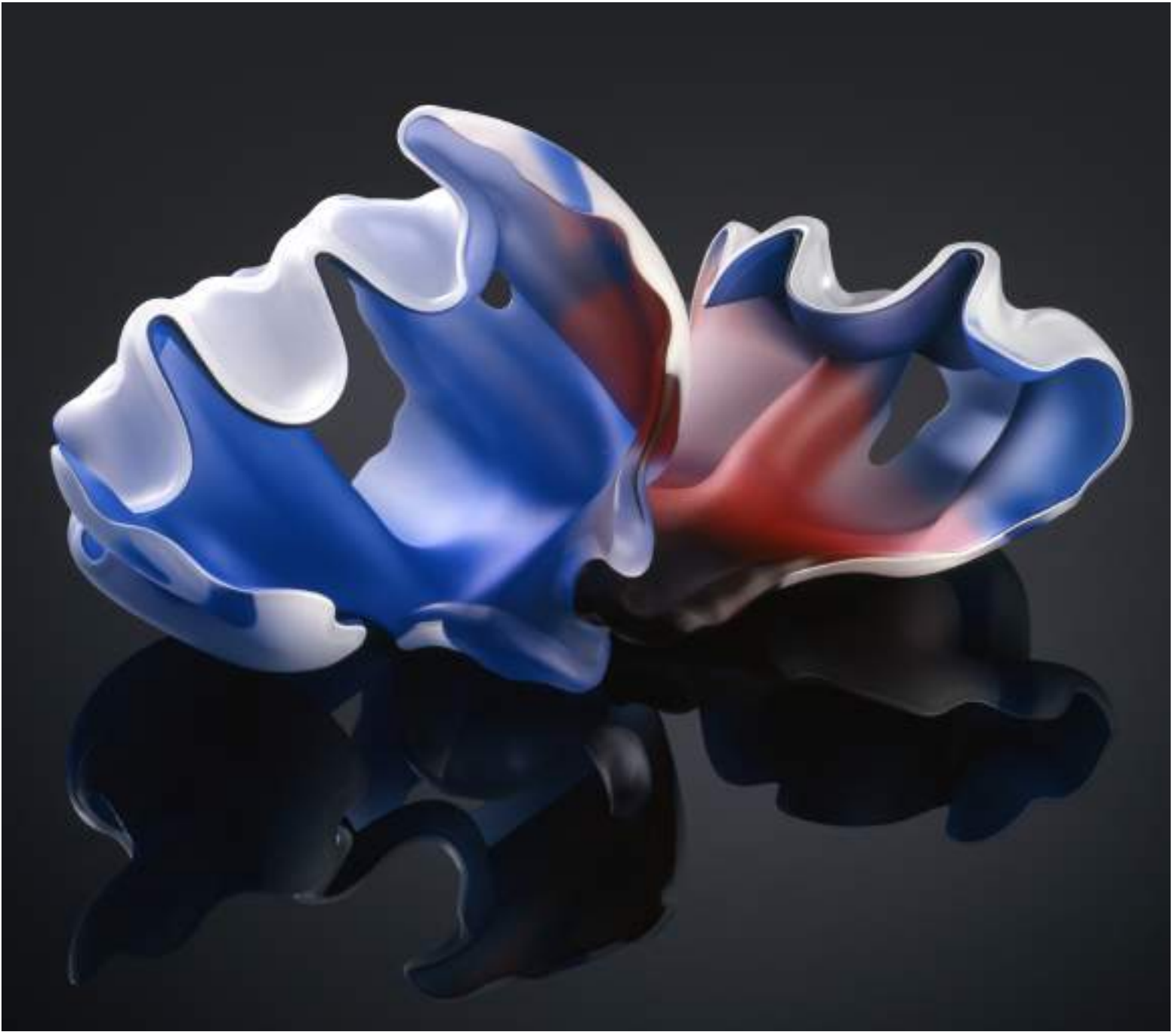
Czech Flowers #3, 1992

Egermann-Exbor S.P., Novy Bor, Czech Republic

Sandblasted glass

9 1/2" x 18" x 22"

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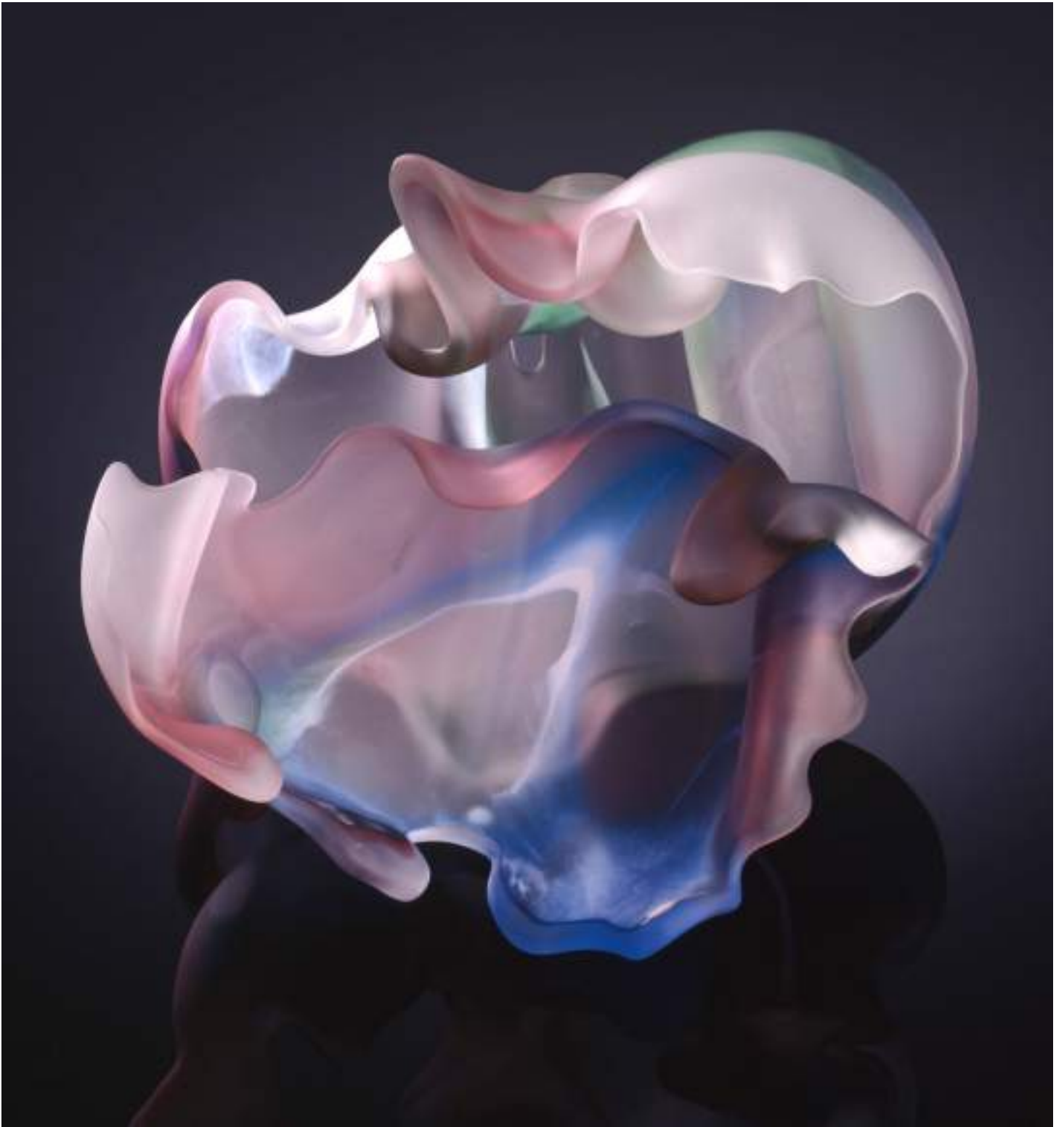


GA Series #6 (IGS V), 1999

Novy Bor, Novy Bor, Czech Republic

Sandblasted glass

10" x 23" x 12 1/2"



Lauscha Group # 3, 1997

Farblashutte, Lauscha, Germany

Sandblasted glass

11" x 16" x 12"



Suomi Finland Series #II, 1992

Humppila Glass Factory, Helsinki, Finland

Sandblasted glass

12" x 13" x 16"



Violetta Series # 7, 1995

Violetta Glass Factory, Stronie Slaskie, Poland

Sandblasted glass

12 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 15"

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Series Meisenthal #20, 1993

International Center for Glass, Meisenthal, France

Sandblasted glass

10 1/2" x 14 1/2" x 11"

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Series Meisenthal Wood Tools, 1992

International Center for Glass, Meisenthal, France

18" x 6" x 2"

Archival Images

Humppila Glass Factory, Helsinki, Finland
1990 - 1992





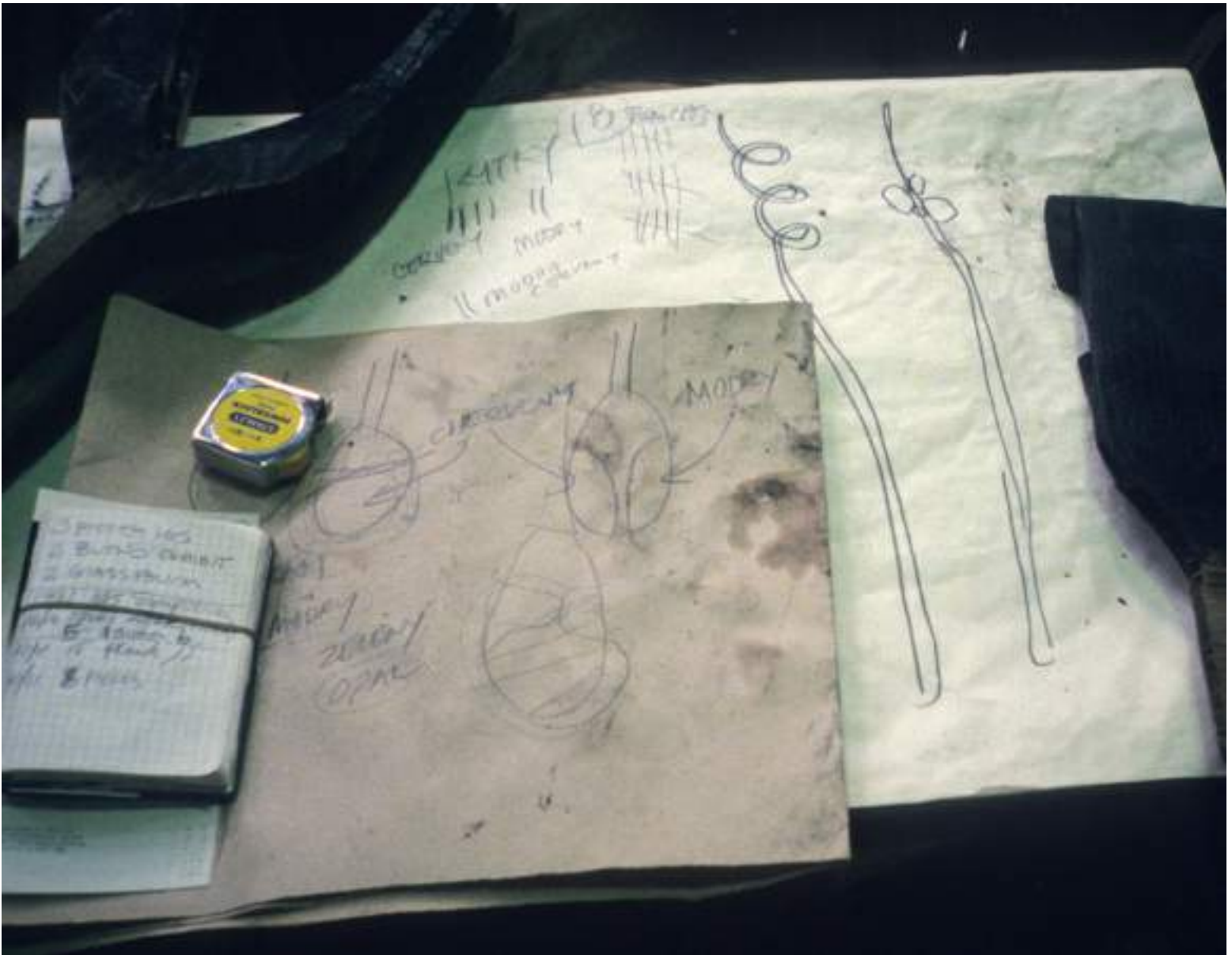


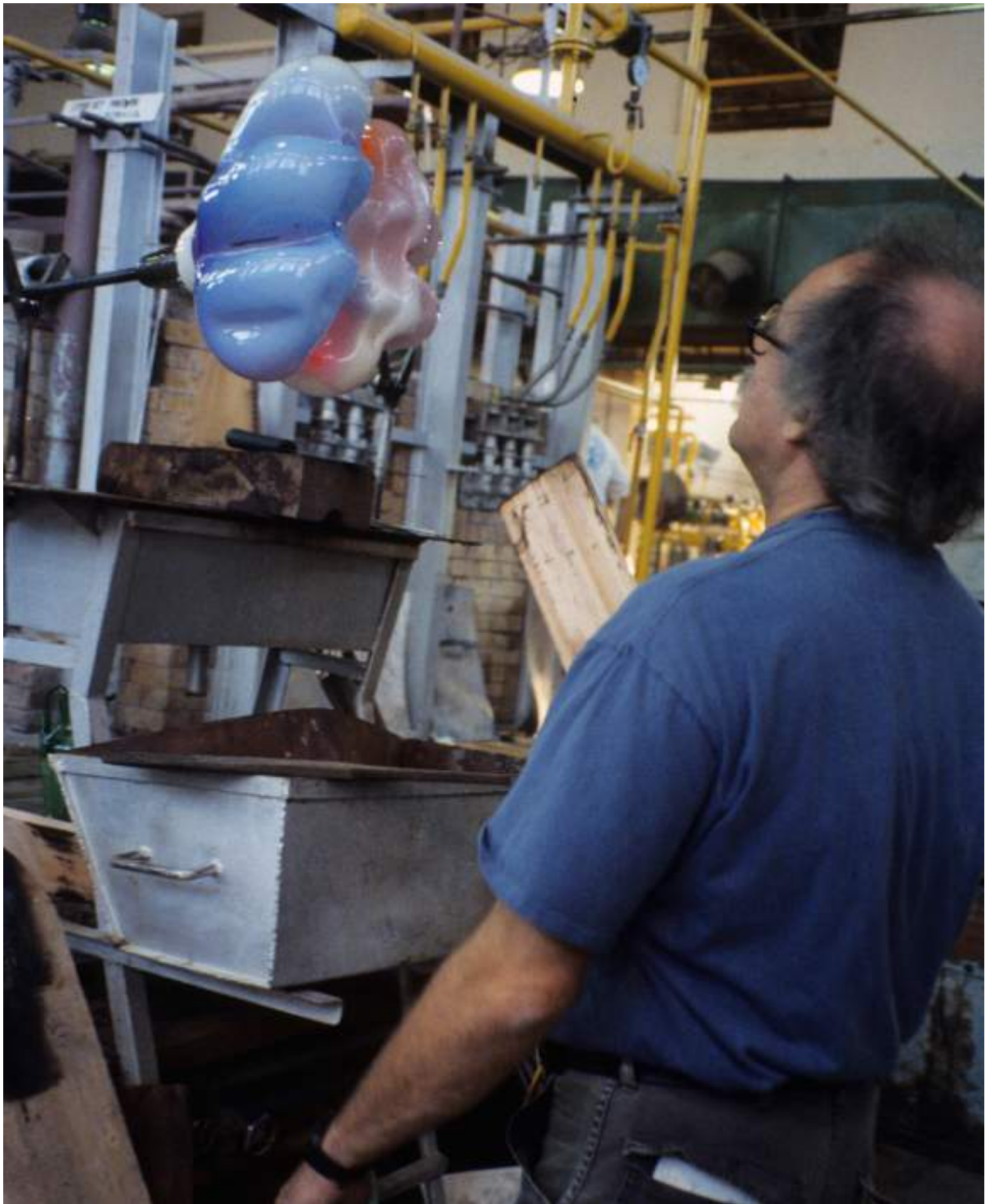
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Egermann-Exbor S.P., Novy Bor, Czech Republic
1991-1993













International Center for Glass, Meisenthal, France
1993



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Violetta Glass Factory, Stronie Slaskie, Poland
1995



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Farblashutte, Lauscha, Germany
1997





