

Æsa Bjork

ARTIST STATEMENT

Through my work I often focus on different layers of experience and meaning. I focus on the observer as well as the observed, along with aspects of time and questions surrounding observations of ourselves. Glass as a material, with its inherent qualities of both fragility and strength and its ability to juxtapose inside and outside along with the many layers in between, has therefore been a material I have found especially interesting to work with. My work tends to be installation-based, making active use of the area in which it is exhibited, which has led me to work with unconventional exhibition spaces and public art.

ARTIST BACKGROUND

Born Reykjavik, Iceland
Currently Bergen, Norway

Education/Training

1997 MDes, Glass Department, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland, UK
1995 BA, 1st Class Honours, Glass Department, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland, UK
1994 Exchange Student, Glass Department of Vladimír Kopecký, Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design, Prague, Czech Republic

Professional Experience

Artistic Advisor, S12 Gallery and Workshop, Bergen, Norway (from 2014)

2021 Assistant to Ane Graff for exhibition at Kistefos Museum, Jevnaker, Norway
2019 Instructor, Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts and Design, 3D Printing and Glass Casting, Stockholm, Sweden
2019 Instructor, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington (and 2016)
2014 Visiting artist/faculty, Sculpture/Dimensional Studies, School of Art and Design, Alfred University, New York (from 2011)
2011 Founder and CEO, S12 Gallery and Workshop, Bergen, Norway (from 2005)

Selected Exhibitions

2022 Shanghai Museum of Glass, China
2021 *VU21 Vestlandsutstillingen*, Kunsthøuset Kabuso, Øystese; Kunstgarasjen, Bergen; Kunsthall Stavanger, Norway
2021 *Gravity and Growth*, S12 Gallery and Workshop, Bergen, Norway
2020 *Glass is Biotiful II*, Hedberg/Torun Space, Biot, France
2020 *Digital Dynamics: Art's New Natures*, Streaming Museum.org
2020 *Glass Art City, Toyama*, Toyama Glass Art Museum, Japan
2019 *Diversity for Peace!*, Karuizawa New Art Museum, Piazza San Marco, Venice, Italy
2019 *47th Annual International Glass Exhibition*, Habatat Galleries, Royal Oak, Michigan

- 2019 *International Glass Symposium Exhibition*, UPM Museum of Decorative Arts, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2019 *Body and Senses*, Whitestone Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2018 *Toyama International Glass Exhibition*, Toyama Glass Art Museum, Japan
- 2018 *iGlass 2018*, Levant Art, Shanghai, China
- 2018 *International Glass Symposium Exhibition*, Glass Museum Nový Bor, Czech Republic
- 2018 *Handmade – Scandinavian Glass Starting All Over*, Glasmuseet Ebeltoft, Denmark
- 2018 *Shield II*, S12 Gallery and Workshop, Bergen, Norway
- 2017 *Stress Field*, 4th Documentary Exhibition of Fine Arts, Hubei Museum of Art, China
- 2016 *European Glass Context*, Bornholm Art Museum, Denmark
- 2016 *Transition*, ECA Alumni Glass Exhibition, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland, UK
- 2016 *LUXUS*, Glass Art Society Conference, Corning, New York
- 2015 *Kunsthåndverk 2015*, National Museum, Oslo, Norway
- 2014 *Fractured Lives/Fragile Existences*, NOosphere Arts, New York
- 2014 *Coburg Prize for Contemporary Glass*, European Museum of Modern Glass, Rodental, Germany
- 2014 *Aurora: Contemporary Nordic Glass Art*, Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey and The Glass Factory, Boda, Sweden)
- 2014 *SN*, S12 Gallery and Workshop, Bergen, Norway
- 2013 *Gage/Gaze*, Fosdick-Nelson Gallery, Alfred University, New York
- 2011 *Glass 2011*, Gjøvik Kunstforening, Norway
- 2010 *Impressions*, S12 Gallery and Workshop, Bergen, Norway
- 2008 *Glass Exhibition*, Nøstetangen Norwegian Glass Museum, Hokksund, Norway
- 2005 *1st International Triennial of Silicate Arts*, Kecskemét Cultural and Conference Centre, Hungary
- 2004 *02.03.04*, Galleri Format, Bergen, Norway

Selected Collections

KODE Art Museums, Bergen, Norway
 Museum of Decorative Arts, Prague, Czech Republic
 National Museum, Oslo, Norway
 Toyama Glass Art Museum, Japan

Awards, Honors & Grants

- 2021 Transport and Travel Grant, Norwegian Crafts & Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (and 2019, 2018, 2014, 2013, 2000)
- 2020 Government Grant for Established Artists, Arts Council Norway (10 years, 2020 – 2030)
- 2020 Exhibition Grant, City of Bergen, Norway (and 2014)
- 2018 Travel Grant, City of Bergen, Norway (and 2015, 2013, 2009)
- 2018 Grand Prize, Toyama International Glass Exhibition, Japan
- 2018 Artist in Residence, Glasmuseet Ebeltoft, Denmark
- 2018 Travel Grant, Association of Norwegian Craft Artists (and 2015)
- 2015 Grant for Artists, Arts Council Norway (5 years – 2015 to 2019, 3 years – 2007-2009, 1 year – 2000, 2001, 2002)

Selected Publications

- 2019 *Neues Glas/New Glass*, Issue No. 3 (and Issues No.4, 2018; No. 1, 2015)
- 2015 *Kampen om materialet*, Norwegian Crafts Association 40 year jubilee
- 2015 *New Glass Review 36*, Corning Museum of Glass