
SABBIA GALLERY

609 Elizabeth Street REDFERN NSW 2016 AUSTRALIA . PO Box 1126 STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012
www.sabbiagallery.com gallery@sabbiagallery.com

EMMA VARGA

1952 Born in Ada, Yugoslavia (known as Emilija Marodic, before 1996)
1995 Moved to Australia, continuing to work as freelance glass artist

Education

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 Works as freelance artist producing glass art and design

Selected Exhibitions

2020 SYDNEY, Sabbia Gallery, MASTERS of AUSTRALIAN GLASS – CONTAINER, April
SARASOTA, FL, Chasen Gallery, NEW WORKS Presentation, April
KENSINGTON, MD, Weisser Gallery, SMALL SCALE, BIG IDEAS, solo show, April

2019 CHICAGO, SOFA Chicago, represented by Bender Gallery of Asheville, NC
CANBERRA, KLAUS MOJE GLASS AWARD, Thor's Hammer Gallery, Sept-Oct
St PETERSBURG, FL, IMAGINE Museum, PIVOT – Inaugural exhibition, July-December
ASHEVILLE, NC, Bender Gallery, WILD & PRECIOUS LIFE, solo show, June
WAGGA WAGGA, Art Gallery, THIS AUSTRALIAN LIFE, group exhibition, March
HURSTVILLE Art Gallery & Museum, BEYOND THE BOWL, January-April

2018 MELBOURNE, Australian Contemporary, FRAGILE WORLD, solo exhibition, December
MELBOURNE, Red Moon Gallery, A GRAIN OF SAND, group exhibition, November
CHICAGO, SOFA Chicago, represented by Bender Gallery of Asheville, NC
SYDNEY, Sabbia gallery, MASTERS of AUSTRALIAN GLASS – SKETCH, Jan/Feb

2017 SOFA Chicago, represented by Bender Gallery of Asheville, NC
SYDNEY, Sabbia Gallery, BLUE WORLD, Solo Exhibition, August
VIENNA, Austria, Sikabonyi Gallery, INTERNATIONAL GLASS ART, March
SARASOTA, FL, Sikabonyi Gallery, INTERNATIONAL GLASS ART, January

2016 SACRAMENTO, CA, Crocker Museum, GLASS FOR THE NEW MILLENIUM, July-October
SANTA FE, NM, Tansey Contemporary, NATURE TROUGH GLASS, June
MELBOURNE, Kirra Galleries, ILLUMINATING GLASS PRIZE FINALISTS, June
MELBOURNE, Kirra Galleries, RAINFOREST TO THE REEF, group show, April
SYDNEY, Sabbia gallery, MASTERS of AUSTRALIAN GLASS – HOME, Jan/Feb
WEST PALM BEACH, Art Palm Beach, Represented by Bender Gallery, Asheville,NC, January

2015 SANTA FE, Tansey Contemporary, SMALL SCALE, BIG IDEAS, Nov.2015 –Jan.2016
CHICAGO, SOFA Chicago, Represented by Tansey Contemporary, Santa Fe, November VIENNA, Sikabonyi Art Glass
Gallery, NEW ANTARCTICA WORKS, April
MELBOURNE, Kirra Gallery, 'SHARED INSPIRATIONS' ,dual solo show, February
LOS ANGELES, LA Fine Art Fair, represented by Tansey Contemporary of Santa Fe, January

2014 CHICAGO, SOFA Chicago, Represented by Kirra Gallery, Melbourne, November
SANTA FE, Tansey Contemporary, APOCALYPSE REVERSED, solo exhibition, August
CANBERRA, Canberra Glass Works, RANAMOK FINALISTS 2012, August
ASPEN, ART ASPEN, Represented by Tansey Contemporary of Santa Fe, July
WAGGA WAGGA, Art Gallery, VIRTUAL GARDEN – solo exhibition July-Sept
SANTA FE, Tansey Contemporary Gallery, BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN IMPACT ON
THE ENVIRONMENT, group exhibition, May
SANTA FE, Tansey Contemporary Gallery, ART + DESIGN NY, April
SYDNEY, Sabbia Gallery, MY PLACES OF GREEN, solo exhibition, April
PALM DESERT, Austin Art Studio, New works from ANTARCTICA series

2013 CHICAGO, SOFA, Represented by Kirra Gallery, NEW ANTARCTICA WORKS, Nov.
The INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION of GLASS – KANAZAWA 2013, Japan, October
CANBERRA, Canberra Glass Works, ANTARCTICA – Objects & Installations, Sept.- November
MELBOURNE, Kirra Gallery, ANTARCTICA - Icebergs, July-August
VIENNA, Künstlerhaus Wien, WIKAM, Represented by Sikabonyi Gallery, March 2013

SYDNEY, Sabbia Gallery, PRIMA, February-March
 WAGGA WAGGA, Art Gallery, ENSEMBLE, February-April
 2012 SYDNEY, Sabbia Gallery, SALUTE VIII, group exhibition, December 2012-January 2013
 CHICAGO, SOFA Chicago, Represented by Kirra Gallery, Melbourne, November
 MELBOURNE, Kirra Gallery, DIRECTOR'S CHOICE, September-October
 CANBERRA, Canberra Glass Works, RANAMOK FINALISTS 2012, August
 MADISON (WI,USA), Chasen Museum, SPARK and FLAME, 50 Years of Art Glass, Apr-Aug.
 NEW YORK, Bonham's, UrbanGlass '35 for 35' Auction, 5th April
 2011 MELBOURNE, Kirra Gallery, SEGUE, November-December
 CHICAGO, SOFA Chicago, Represented by Kirra Gallery, Melbourne, November
 AUCKLAND, NZ, Masterworks Gallery, TOP DRAWER, September-October
 CANBERRA, Canberra Glass Works, RANAMOK FINALISTS 2011, August
 NEW YORK, Chashama Gallery, FETE DE VERRE, March-April
 2010 SYDNEY, Sabbia Gallery, GEOMETRY, group exhibition, January-February 2011.
 SYDNEY, Manly Art Gallery, LONG REEF, solo exhibition, December-January 2011.
 MELBOURNE, Axia Modern Art, CAPTURING LIGHT, November
 CHICAGO, SOFA Chicago, Represented by Kirra Gallery, Melbourne, 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
 2009 PALM DESERT, CA, Imago Galleries, OZ – Australian & New Zealand studio glass, February
 SYDNEY, Arterreal Gallery, CATS & DOGS, December
 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, Canberra Glass Works, RANAMOK FINALISTS 2009, August
 PALM DESERT, CA, presentation of NEW WORKS, Imago Galleries, November
 NEW YORK, SOFA New York, represented by Compendium Gallery (NZ), May
 ROYAL OAK, MI, Habatat Galleries, 37th Annual 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
 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 G; LAVA RED, GRASS GREEN, OCEAN BLUE, solo exhib.
 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
 2006 SYDNEY, Sabbia Gallery, MASTERS OF AUSTRALIAN GLASS, 2007, January
 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
 SYDNEY, Raglan Gallery, TOWARD THE INNER, May-June
 MELBOURNE, Craft Victoria Gallery, MIND MAPS, April-May
 KECSKEMET, (HU), Museion, 1st TRIENNIAL of SILICATE ARTS, March-May
 SYDNEY, Object Galleries, GLOBAL LOCAL, January-March
 2004 BUDAPEST (HU), Glass Pyramid Gallery, SOMETHING DIFFERENT - AUSTRALIAN GLASS,
 SOMETHING DIFFERENT..., Quadrivium Gallery
 2003 MELBOURNE, Axia Modern Art, CAST & KILN FORMED GLASS
 2002 TAIWAN, Tainan, Taipei and Taichung, MITSUKOSHI ART FESTIVAL
 SYDNEY, Quadrivium, DIALOGUE

2001	SYDNEY and WASHINGTON (US), RANAMOK Glass Prize Finalists 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 BELGRADE,(YU), Museum of Applied Art, 15 YEARS OF WORK IN GLASS, retrospective
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, NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, TOLEDO, PARIS, LONDON, TOKYO World Glass Survey – Touring Exhibition NEW GLASS
1977	COBURG, Germany, European Glass Exhibition COBURGER GLASPREIS
1975-95	BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Art Association's MAY and OCTOBER ART SHOWs

Selected Professional Experience and Awards

1976-91	Co-operated with Glass Factories in 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
1988 & 1991	Participated in the 3 rd & 4 th Interglass Symposium NOVY BOR, Czechoslovakia
1990	Annual Award of the Association of Applied Artists (Belgrade, Yugoslavia) for entire opus
1996-2017	Currently developing multiple layers fusing / casting - techniques to create glass objects
2010-2017	Currently developing paté de verre and glass mosaic techniques, in combination with fusing - to create glass objects and panels
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 upcoming solo exhibitions 'The Story About Red' at JamFactory and SOFA Chicago in 2007
2007	Guest teacher at Glass Furnace (Turkey) and Master class at Exemplar Glass (UK) Lecture & presentation at Sydney College of Art and Ringling School of Art & Design, Florida
2008	Guest teacher at Wanganui (NZ), Michigan (USA) and at Glass Furnace in Istanbul (Turkey)
2009	Guest teacher (Masterclass), Wanganui, New Zealand, February 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' project in Sydney, January-December
2010	Guest teacher at Glass Furnace (Turkey), August
2011	Master classes at Ausglass Conference in Sydney, January;
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 2013-14 Research trip to Antarctica, December
2013	Guest teacher at Glass Furnace (Turkey), June
2014	Artist of the month – March 2014, Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, USA Guest teacher at Corning Studio, Corning, NY, August-September Guest teacher at Weisser Glass Studio, Kensington,MD, August and November
2015	'First Light' artist residency, 'Arctic Glass Studio', Berlevag,Norway, February Guest teacher at Oatka School of Glass, NY, April and October Panel discussion on 'Glass Works inspired by Antarctica', SOFA Chicago, Moderator: Editor of GLASS ART QUARTERLY magazine (NY), November 2015. Guest teacher at Weisser Glass Studio, Kensington,MD, November
2016	Guest teacher at Oatka School of Glass, NY, June
2017	ARCTIC CIRCLE Residency, Svalbard Archipelago, Norway, September-October Stephen Procter Fellowship recipient; Residency at ANU, Canberra, August – September

2018	Guest teacher at 'Ed Hoy Glass', Chicago - November Guest teacher at Corning Studio, Corning, NY, January Guest teacher at Glass Furnace, Turkey, May
2019	Guest teacher at Corning Studio, Corning, NY, June Guest teacher at 'Ed Hoy Glass', Chicago – November
2020	Guest teacher at Weisser Glass Studio, Kensington, MD, April

Collections

Powerhouse Museum (Decorative Arts & Design), Sydney;
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra;
National Art Glass Collection, Wagga Wagga,
Australia; Australian Art Trust, Melbourne;
Kaplan/Ostergaard Glass Collection at Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA;
Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL
Design Center Ishikawa, Japan;
Toyama Glass Art Museum, Toyama, Japan;
The Museum of Applied Art in Belgrade, Serbia;
Glassmuseum Ebeltoft, Denmark;
The Arrango Design Foundation, Miami, USA;
The Glassgalerie Immenhausen, Germany;
The Interglass Symposium Collection, Czech Republic;
and numerous major private collections in Australia, USA, Europe, Asia and Africa.

Selected Publications

2014	Glass Quarterly, 'Icy shift', Essay by Victoria Josslin, Issue #135 Craft Arts International, 'Tableaux of Antarctica by Emma Varga', Essay by Eva Czernis-Ryl, Issue #90
2010	Long Reef, Catalogue for solo exhibition at Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney, Essay by Eva Czernis-Ryl
2009	Glass Quarterly (Urban Glass, New York): Veils of Color, Shafts of Light, Essay by Grace Cochrane, winter edition #117 Craft Arts International, Cats & Dogs, Essay by Eva 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 Hesse, issue #45
2001	Object/CD ROM, Contemporary Australian Design,

Notes on Technique

The technique of 'multiple layers fusing' has been gradually developed by Emma Varga during the past 20 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 20–400 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. Since 2010, Emma has been developing glass mosaic techniques and new approaches to pate de verre techniques, especially a combination of pate de verre with fusing and casting.