



EMMA VARGA

Sydney

Emma Varga was born in Ada, Yugoslavia, in 1952. She graduated from the University of Applied Arts in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1975 earning a bachelor of arts degree in visual and applied art, with majors in glass design and ceramic sculpture. Her work has been heavily influenced all along by her environment and experiences, which have, ironically, served as the catalyst for both dramatic change (in tone and feel), and stabilization (in process, style and focus) of her work over the past twenty years. Political unrest within her home country led the artist to immigrate to Australia in 1995, a move which enabled the true blossoming of her work and the development of both her own signature process and style.

The interplay between how and why she makes her work is truly dynamic and beautiful: behind each of her works, which communicate the simple and captivating beauty of nature so succinctly, is an incredibly complex and labour intensive process.

Emma's increased interest in the effects of global warming on the environment resulted in her first two exhibitions in Sydney in 2010: *Into The Green* at Sabbia Gallery and *Long Reef* at Manly Art Gallery and Museum. This was followed by intensive research and development over the next ten years, resulting in twelve solo exhibitions in Australia and overseas. *Forces of Nature* is the next in this series and represents a logical and natural extension of Emma's environmental explorations and creation of related glassworks.

Her work can be found in the collections of the PowerHouse Museum, Sydney; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Art Glass Collection, Wagga Wagga, Australia; Australian Art Trust, Melbourne; Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA; The Museum of Applied Arts, Belgrade, Serbia; Glass Museum, Ebeltoft, Denmark; The Glass-gallerie Immenhausen, Germany; The Interglass Symposium Collection, Czech Republic; and numerous major private collections in Australia, USA, Europe, Asia and Africa.

Usually I first have a vision of the finished object and then I look for the specific method necessary, though the way that I create pâte de verre elements leads to both providing and expressing the narrative. There is something magical involved with making thousands of small elements – even just piling them on the table bursts my imagination and leads to creating 'stories.'

We do this work, we learn this craft, we push, we integrate, we branch out and narrow in, and once in a while, there is a piece that stands up and matters. For me, 'Rage and Revival' has that punch and cathartic, healing life force. Bushfires RAGE in Australia, destroying the landscape, but forces of nature bring the REVIVAL. Hence the inseparable duo of objects, offering hope after destruction.

Emma Varga 2021

sabbia gallery . sydney . australia