
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, pre - 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

2024 Stourbridge Glass Museum, Contemporary Pâte de Verre: The material of Time, Stourbridge, Wordsley, UK
Verticale, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney, NSW

2023 Retrospective Solo exhibition- Fire, Water, Life, WAGGA WAGGA Art Gallery, NSW
Chasen Gallery, 50th Anniversary Exhibition, Sarasota, Florida, USA
1001 REMARKABLE OBJECTS, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, NSW
Environmental Art Prize, Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney, NSW
Vicki Torr IYoG Exhibition finalists, ACU Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
Ausglass Members' Exhibition, ACU Gallery, Melbourne, VIC

2022 Environmental Art Prize, Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney, NSW
Tom Malone Prize 2022 Exhibition, Art Gallery of Western Australia, PERTH, WA

2021 Forces of Nature, Solo exhibition, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney NSW

2020 MASTERS of AUSTRALIAN GLASS – CONTAINER, Sabbia Gallery, SYDNEY, NSW
NEW WORKS Presentation, Chasen Gallery, SARASOTA, FL, USA
Solo exhibition, SMALL SCALE, BIG IDEAS, Weisser Gallery, KENSINGTON, MD, USA

2019 SOFA Chicago, represented by Bender Gallery of Asheville, CHICAGO, NC, USA
KLAUS MOJE GLASS AWARD, Thor's Hammer Gallery, CANBERRA, ACT
St PETERSBURG, FL, IMAGINE Museum, PIVOT – Inaugural exhibition
Solo exhibition, WILD & PRECIOUS LIFE , Bender Gallery, ASHEVILLE, NC, USA
Group Exhibition, THIS AUSTRALIAN LIFE, WAGGA WAGGA Art Gallery, NSW
BEYOND THE BOWL, HURSTVILLE Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney, NSW

2018 Solo exhibition, FRAGILE WORLD, , Australian Contemporary, MELBOURNE, VIC
Group exhibition, A GRAIN OF SAND, Red Moon Gallery, MELBOURNE, VIC
SOFA Chicago, represented by Bender Gallery of Asheville, Chicago, NC, USA
Group exhibition, MASTERS of AUSTRALIAN GLASS – SKETCH, Sabbia Gallery, SYDNEY, NSW

2017 SOFA Chicago, represented by Bender Gallery of Asheville, NC, USA
Solo exhibition, Blue World, Sabbia Gallery, SYDNEY, NSW
INTERNATIONAL GLASS ART, Sikabonyi Gallery, VIENNA, Austria
INTERNATIONAL GLASS ART, , Sikabonyi Gallery, SARASOTA, FL, USA

2016 GLASS FOR THE NEW MILLENIUM, Crocker Museum, SACRAMENTO, CA, USA
NATURE TROUGH GLASS, Tansey Contemporary, SANTA FE, NM, USA
ILLUMINATING GLASS PRIZE FINALISTS, Kirra Galleries, MELBOURNE, VIC
Group exhibition, RAINFOREST TO THE REEF, Kirra Galleries, MELBOURNE, VIC
MASTERS of AUSTRALIAN GLASS – HOME, Sabbia gallery, Sydney, NSW
WEST PALM BEACH, Art Palm Beach, Represented by Bender Gallery, Asheville, NC, USA

2015 SMALL SCALE, BIG IDEAS, Tansey Contemporary, SANTA FE USA
CHICAGO, SOFA Chicago, Represented by Tansey Contemporary, Santa Fe, USA
NEW ANTARCTICA WORKS, Sikabonyi Art Glass Gallery, Vienna, Austria
'SHARED INSPIRATIONS', Kirra Galleries, MELBOURNE, VIC
LA Fine Art Fair, represented by Tansey Contemporary of Santa Fe, LOS ANGELES, USA

2014 SOFA Chicago, Represented by Kirra Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
Solo exhibition, APOCALYPSE REVERSED, Tansey Contemporary, SANTA FE, USA
RANAMOK FINALISTS 2012, Canberra Glass Works, CANBERRA, ACT
ASPEN, ART ASPEN, Represented by Tansey Contemporary of Santa Fe

- VIRTUAL GARDEN – solo exhibition, WAGGA WAGGA Art Gallery, NSW
 Group Exhibition, BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, Tansey Contemporary Gallery, SANTA FE, USA
 ART + DESIGN NY, Tansey Contemporary Gallery, SANTA FE, USA
 Solo Exhibition, MY PLACES OF GREEN, Sabbia Gallery, SYDNEY, NSW
 New works from ANTARCTICA series, Austin Art Studio, PALM DESERT, USA
- 2013
 NEW ANTARCTICA WORKS, Represented by Kirra Gallery, SOFA CHICAGO, USA
 The INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION of GLASS – KANAZAWA 2013, Japan
 ANTARCTICA – Objects & Installations, Canberra Glass Works, CANBERRA, ACT
 ANTARCTICA – Icebergs, Kirra Galleries, MELBOURNE, VIC
 VIENNA, Künstlerhaus Wien, WIKAM, Represented by Sikabonyi Gallery
 PRIMA, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney, NSW
 ENSEMBLE, WAGGA WAGGA Art Gallery, NSW
- 2012
 SALUTE VIII, group exhibition, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney, NSW
 CHICAGO, SOFA Chicago, Represented by Kirra Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
 DIRECTOR’S CHOICE, Kirra Galleries, MELBOURNE, VIC
 RANAMOK FINALISTS 2012, Canberra Glass Works, CANBERRA, ACT
 SPARK and FLAME: 50 Years of Art Glass, Chasen Museum, MADISON, WI, USA
 UrbanGlass ’35 for 35’ Auctio, Bonham’s, NEW YORK, USA
- 2011
 SEGUE, Kirra Gallery, MELBOURNE, VIC
 CHICAGO, SOFA Chicago, Represented by Kirra Gallery, Melbourne
 TOP DRAWER, Masterworks Gallery, AUCKLAND, NZ
 RANAMOK FINALISTS 2011, Canberra Glass Works, CANBERRA, ACT
 FETE DE VERRE, Chashama Gallery, NEW YORK, NY, USA
 GEOMETRY, group exhibition, Sabbia Gallery, SYDNEY, NSW
- 2010
 LONG REEF, solo exhibition, Manly Art Gallery, SYDNEY, NSW
 CAPTURING LIGHT, Axia Modern Art, MELBOURNE, VIC
 CHICAGO, SOFA Chicago, Represented by Kirra Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
 RANAMOK FINALISTS , CANBERRA, Canberra Glass Works, ACT
 INTO THE GREEN, solo exhibition, Sabbia Gallery, SYDNEY, NSW
 WINTER, group exhibition, Sabbia Gallery, SYDNEY, NSW
 FROM THE GARDEN, solo exhibition, Kirra Gallery, MELBOURNE, VIC
- 2009
 OZ – Australian & New Zealand studio glass, Imago Galleries, PALM DESERT, CA, USA
 CATS & DOGS, Group Exhibition, Artereal Gallery, SYDNEY, NSW
 NEW WORKS, solo exhibition, Hodgell Gallery, SARASOTA, FL, USA
 CHICAGO, SOFA Chicago, Represented by Kirra Gallery, Melbourne
 CATS & DOGS, Masterworks Gallery, AUCKLAND, NZ
 CRAFTING LANDSCAPE: 4 artists’, Lake McQuarie Art Gallery, LAKE McQUARIE, NSW
 IN PARADISE, Group exhibition, Manly Art Gallery, SYDNEY, NSW
 RANAMOK FINALISTS 2009, Canberra Glass Works, , CANBERRA, ACT
 Presentation of NEW WORKS, Imago Galleries, PALM DESERT, CA, USA
 NEW YORK, SOFA New York, represented by Compendium Gallery (NZ)
 37th Annual Glass Invitational Exhibition, Habatat Galleries, ROYAL OAK, MI, USA
 CONTEMPORARY GLASS, Palm Springs Art Museum, PALM SPRINGS, CA, USA
 Reinstallation of Kaplan/Ostergaard Glass Collection
- 2008
 RANAMOK FINALISTS 2008, GlassWorks, CANBERRA, ACT
 NEW YORK, SOFA 2008, represented by Compendium Gallery (NZ)
 Solo exhibition, Vibrant, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2007
 CHICAGO, SOFA 2007, represented by ‘Compendium Gallery (NZ)
 SARASOTA, FL (US), Hodgell Gallery, ONE FINE DAY, solo show
 ADELAIDE, JamFactory’ Gallery, THE STORY ABOUT RED, solo exhibition
 The INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION of GLASS – KANAZAWA 2007, Japan
 LONDON, ART LONDON, represented by ‘Glass Artist’s Gallery (Sydney)
 AUCKLAND (NZ), Compendium G; LAVA RED, GRASS GREEN, OCEAN BLUE, solo exhib.
 WAGGA WAGGA, Art Gallery, HERE THEY CAME
 PALM SPRINGS (CA), Palm Springs Art Museum, CONTEMPORARY GLASS, Inaugural exhibition of Kaplan/Ostergaard
 Glass Collection
 SYDNEY, Glass Artist’s Gallery, ENCORE
 SYDNEY, Sabbia Gallery, MASTERS OF AUSTRALIAN GLASS
- 2006
 LJUBLJANA (Slovenia), Marjan Lovšin Gallery, OBJECTS, solo exhibition
 CANBERRA, School of Art Gallery, RANAMOK FINALISTS 2006
 MELBOURNE, Axia Modern Art, Solo exhibition, 10 YEARS IN AUSTRALIA
 BELGRADE (Serbia), Museum of Applied Art, DREAMTIME DOWN UNDER, Retrospective solo exhibition
- 2005
 LONDON, Victoria & Albert Museum, IMPORT EXPORT GLOBAL
 CANBERRA, Craft ACT Gallery, RANAMOK FINALISTS 2005
 PHILADELPHIA (US), National Liberty Museum, GLASS DOWN UNDER
 HONG KONG, Gaffer Studio Glass Gallery, AUSTRALIAN GLASS
 SINGAPORE, Singapore Art Festival, AUSTRALIAN GLASS

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| | SYDNEY, Raglan Gallery, TOWARD THE INNER |
| | MELBOURNE, Craft Victoria Gallery, MIND MAPS |
| | KECSKEMET, (HU), Museion, 1 st TRIENNIAL of SILICATE ARTS |
| | SYDNEY, Object Galleries, GLOBAL LOCAL |
| 2004 | BUDAPEST (HU), Glass Pyramid Gallery, SOMETHING DIFFERENT - AUSTRALIAN GLASS, SOMETHING DIFFERENT..., Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney, NSW |
| 2003 | MELBOURNE, Axia Modern Art, CAST & KILN FORMED GLASS |
| 2002 | TAIWAN, Tainan, Taipei and Taichung, MITSUKOSHI ART FESTIVAL Dialogue, Group show, Quadrivium, Sydney, NSW |
| | SYDNEY and WASHINGTON (US), RANAMOK Glass Prize Finalists |
| 2001 | 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

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| 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 |

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| 2015 | Guest teacher at Weisser Glass Studio, Kensington, MD, August and November '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. |
| 2016 | Guest teacher at Weisser Glass Studio, Kensington, MD, November 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 Guest teacher at 'Ed Hoy Glass', Chicago - November |
| 2018 | 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 |
| 2021 | Recipient of CREATE NSW Grant for Individual project REVIVAL – Celebrating 50 years of working with glass, and creating ~80 glass objects for 3 Solo exhibitions and a Retrospective exhibition, in Australia |

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

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| 2022 | Pâte de Verre: The Material of Time, Author(s): Max Stewart & Tone Ørvik Schiffer Publishing ISBN: 9780764363177 |
| 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 Hespe, 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.