

NEWS RELEASE

Ancient technique Reinterpreted: VERRE ÉGLOMISÉ, OR REVERSE, hand~painted glass

Painting-under-glass, reverse-painted glass, verre églomisé, potichomania: all refer to the technique of working with paint, metal leaf, acids and collage opposite the “viewing” or right side of a piece of glass—whether it be a vase, platter, table top or wall panel. “Potiri” means glass in Greek; the French term “verre églomisé” was coined from the name of a prominent art collector, J.B. Glomy, who died in 1786...but the method it refers to has been practiced for at least two thousand years, perhaps since the discovery of glass itself.

Each piece begins as a clear glass shape. Up to a dozen applied layers of gold leaf, metallic powders, paint, collage, chemical washes and varnishes culminate in the finish seen from the “right” side of the glass. Glass both diffuses and magnifies; hence, colours and metallics appear rich, with a saturate luminosity.

Artist Caroline Jonas says: “I am interested in patterns that exhibit historical and cross cultural lineages.” She cites influences such as Secessionist Vienna, the lingering twilight of Byzantium, and orientalist London during the 1880s. “I look upon pattern and design as a rich language with which to fashion expressive and diversely detailed pieces of glass art.”



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