



X Years of Molten Glass Sculpture | Lhotský–Pelechov

Exhibit Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the Founding of Lhotský s.r.o. – Studio of Molten Glass Sculpture

Concept of the Exhibition



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In 1994, two visual artists, Zdeněk Lhotský and Oldřich Plíva, established the P&L Company (spol. s r.o.). This company was established with the aim of operating a molten glass sculpture studio in Pelechov near Železný Brod. At that time, the owner of the studio, Železnobrodské Sklo a.s., was no longer interested in its operation as it did not receive any profit and showed signs of insolvency. The two companions, Lhotský and Plíva, then took over the studio and have been running it since August 1994.

With some minor (and also larger) difficulties, they have essentially saved it against bankruptcy.

They accomplished their first major commission – a piece by the glass art duo Libenský-Brychtová entitled “Encounter” – for the entrance hall of the Kioi Hall Opera House in Tokyo, Japan, at the end of 1994 and beginning of 1995. Gradually, this artistic duo created many pieces and the studio began to work in peace and in harmony. The studio became stable, in the terms of the number of employees as well and began creating a new and independent program and clientele. It was clear that otherwise it could not have survived the hard conditions of market economy.

In 1996, after settling the shares of founding companions, Zdeněk Lhotský became the sole owner of the company. At that time, the company had changed its name to its present one – Lhotský s.r.o.

Under the leadership of Zdeněk Lhotský, the studio of molten glass sculpture has gained many new customers thanks to the high quality of its products, and particularly to its bold and creative attitude. At the same time, a new assortment of goods, based exclusively on the designs of Zdeněk Lhotský, have been developed. In a relatively short period of time, this large series of applied glass art has found its permanent position on the local market and has started to pave its uneasy way on the international market. New technologies have been established, special fuse and slumping, and the melting technology was improved to such an extent that the Pelechov operation has become one of the biggest and best studios of molten glass sculpture in the world. At present, artists from all over the world come here to realise their projects that are often too complicated to produce elsewhere.

Accompanying the above mentioned glass artists Libenský and Brychtová will be a group of several local artists – Ivan Mareš, Anna Matoušková, Ladislav Oliva Sr., Alena Matějková, Markéta Šílená, Josef Marek, and others. They will also be joined by artists of international recognition – Ann Wolff, Mary Schaffer, Karen LaMonte, Howard Ben Tre, Kevin Berlin (Giovanni Rossi), to name a few. Every new artist has brought something new concerning the processing and the structure of the work. The work therefore has been constantly very demanding yet quite innovative. As the workshop becomes more and more experienced in various technologies, some art pieces that are of top quality in this particular field have originated here. It is of a particular interest that artists, who have not worked with glass before, have started realising their glass works in the Pelechov Studio. They have quickly gained some experience and the results are quite outstanding. These artists are, among others, Michal Gabriel, Jakub Švéda, Čestmír Suška, Jiří David and Stefan Milkov.

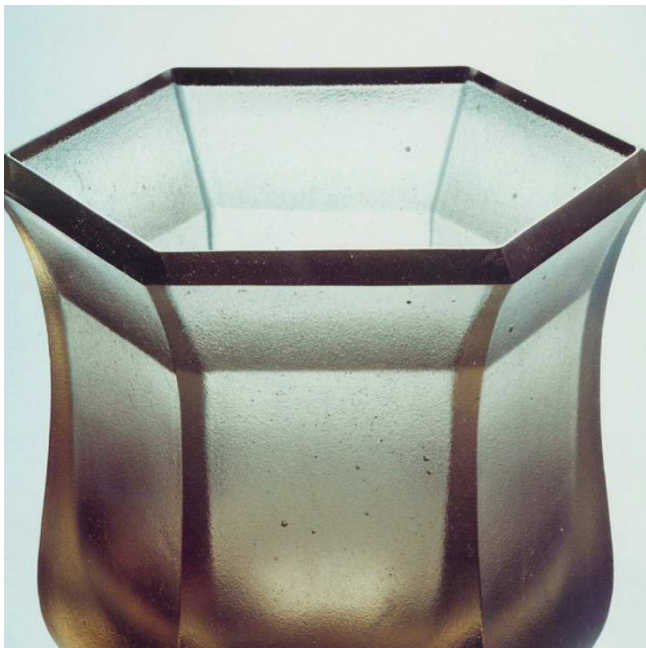
In 2004, the Studio will celebrate its tenth anniversary under the leadership of the P&L Company (spol. s r.o.), respectively Lhotský s.r.o. On this occasion, it will be of special interest to introduce the creative efforts of this fine team of artists to the public. The aim is to hold an exhibition of the most remarkable pieces that have been made in Pelechov over the course of the last decade – those works that are of interest both from the technological and artistic points of view.

The Studio will organise two exhibitions in the cities of Brno and Liberec. In Brno the exhibition will take place in the Moravian Gallery where glass has been introduced successfully several times. These spaces are very suitable for a glass installation. The exhibition will take place in March, April and May 2005. During the exhibition, several lectures will be prepared for both the public and professional audiences. In Liberec in October 2004, the exhibition will be held in the North-Bohemian Museum, whose character is also suitable for this particular project. The exhibition will introduce the works of art from a slightly different angle than we are used to. The only dramaturgical line will be that of the varied approaches to one particular technology, in which the Czech Republic and its creators belong to the worldly recognised top experts.

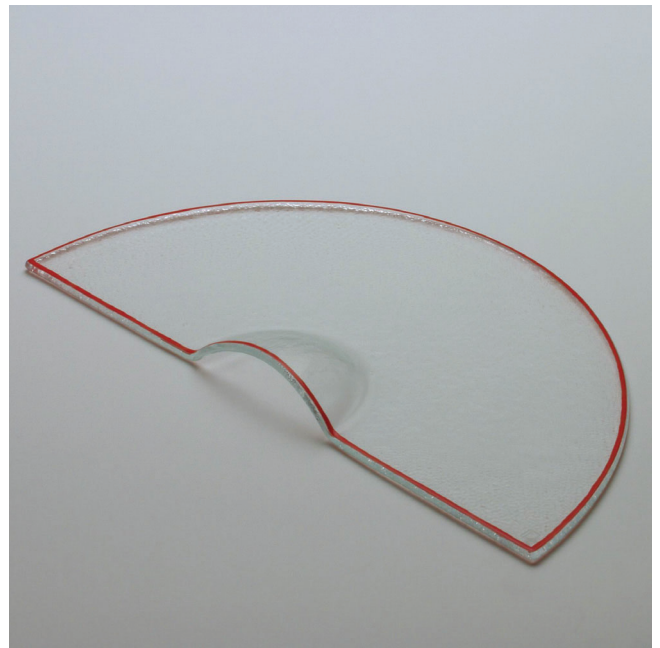
The work of the Pelechov Studio can be divided into several independent components. One of the most distinctive is the creation and production of smaller objects of the designer's character. These include decorative plates, as well as small and large bowls and vases. These are interior accessories that can be found in galleries and shops oriented on arts and crafts goods. Their design and development is completely under the control of Zdeněk Lhotský and represents a new trend. The production is constantly developing and the best pieces are included in the permanent assortment of the Studio.



Zdeněk Lhotský / Bowl 1095 / 1995 / 21×12 cm



Zdeněk Lhotský / Bowl 395 / 1995 / 15×13,5 cm

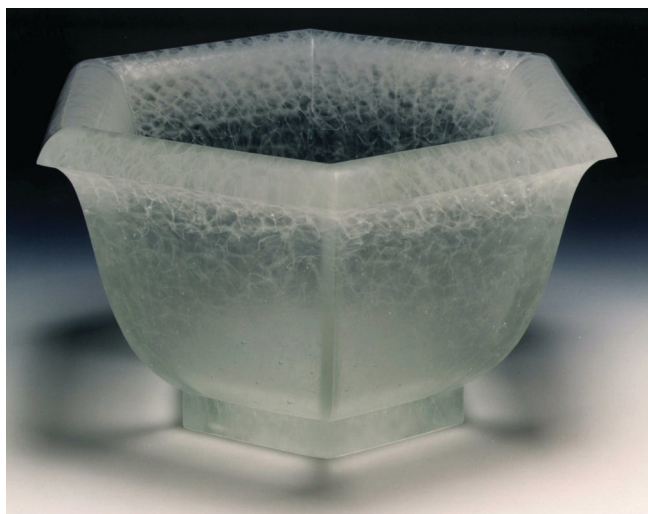


Zdeněk Lhotský / FL-0103c-2 / 2003 / 25×12 cm

Somewhere on the border between design and fine glass art, there are large pieces that belong to the sphere of applied arts with their character. However, their dimensions and the way that they are used always represent a unique creation. In this field, it would be hard to find any kind of parallel in the glass creation in the world.



Zdeněk Lhotský / Bowl 12000 / 2000 / 50×17,5 cm



Zdeněk Lhotský / Bowl 196 / 1996 / 35×19 cm



Zdeněk Lhotský / Bowl 296 / 1996 / 33×18 cm

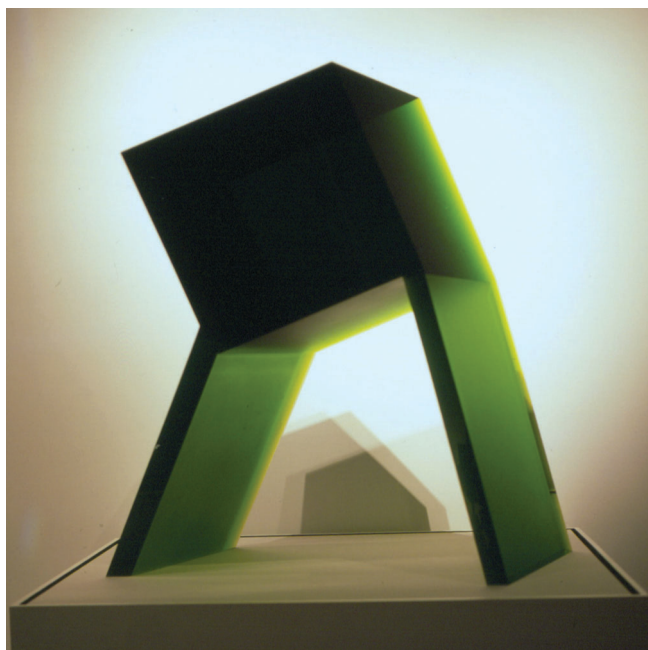
The main direction of the Studio's activities lies in the realisation of objects of well known (as well as lesser known) and young, beginning artists who are working with molten glass. Among the most famous artists are the artistic duo Libenský-Brychtová. As a matter of fact, Jaroslava Brychtová and her father Jaroslav Brychta were at the dawn of this technology. During its ten years of existence, the company has acquired a wide circle of customers from all over the world through its active business policy and thus has become a popular place for the realisation of works that are highly demanding in terms of their technologies.



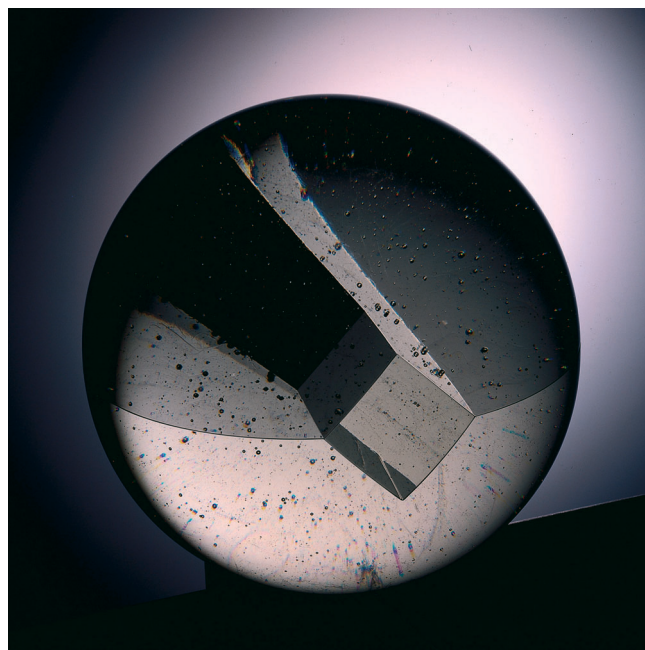
Karen LaMonte / Dress - relief (diptych) / 2003 / 120×100 cm



Karen LaMonte / Dress / 2001 / 150×70×70 cm



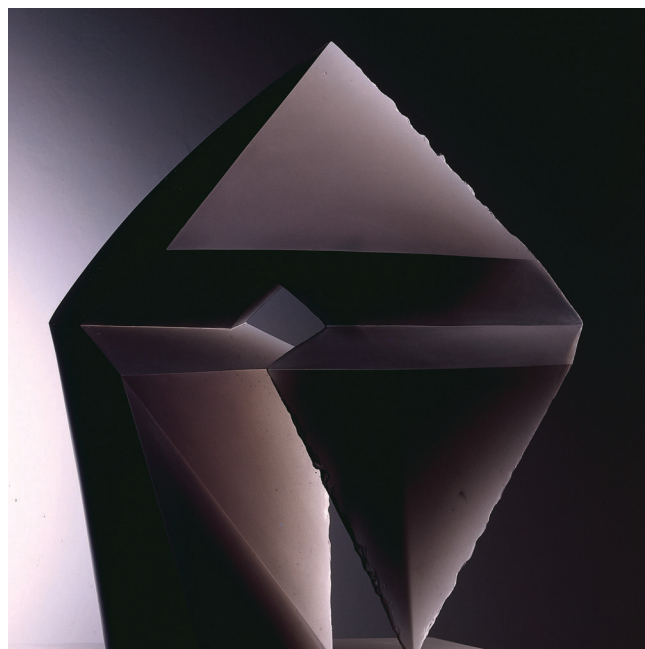
Stanislav Libenský - Jaroslava Brychtová / Metamorphosis / 1987 / 80×50 cm



Stanislav Libenský - Jaroslava Brychtová / Cube in Sphere / 1980 / diameter 30 cm



Stanislav Libenský - Jaroslava Brychtová / Arcus I. / 1991 / 75×98 cm



Stanislav Libenský - Jaroslava Brychtová / Free Through / 1988 / 75×60 cm



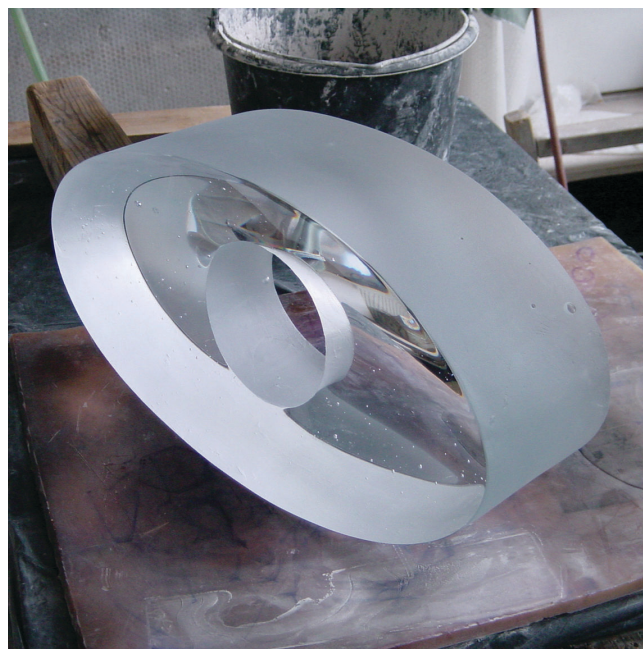
Michal Gabriel / Table / 1997 / diameter 90 cm



Vladěna Pavlik-Klumparová / Leaf / 1999 / 80×80 cm



Mary Schaffer / Drapery / 1999 / 60×50 cm



Čestmír Suška / Eye / 2003 / 60×35×15 cm

Another speciality of the Pelechov Studio is the realisation and implementation of art pieces into architectural designs. In this field, the Studio has currently reached the peak for what is technically possible. The site-specific works, particularly by the couple Libenský-Brychtová, can be found at many places throughout Europe, Asia and the USA. After Stanislav Libenský passed away, several Czech as well as international artists have continued on this journey and have continued making major developments in collaboration with the Pelechov Studio. A number of exceptional works are being produced that develop Pelechov traditions in the best possible way.



Jiří Pliešník / Lights / St Laurence Church / Bystřice nad Pernštejnem / 2002 / h 110 cm



Stanislav Libenský - Jaroslava Brychtová / Windows / Špilberk Castle in Brno / 2003



Stanislav Libenský - Jaroslava Brychtová / Spatial Wall / Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC / 2001 / 420×420 cm

The Moravian Gallery in Brno is the largest gallery of this kind in the Czech Republic. Established in 1961 when the portrait gallery merged together with the Museum of Applied Arts. In its three buildings, the Moravian Gallery presents its own collections of free and applied arts from the Gothic period to today. These pieces of art can be seen in either the permanent exposition as well as during contemporary exhibits.

The glass collection of the Moravian Gallery includes unique demonstrations of artistic glass production from the past centuries as well as utility glassware that document the historical development, in particular in Central Europe. An important part of the collection is the mapping of the works of Czech glass designers from the second half of the 20th century, following their artistic development until today. In addition to the studio creation of the contemporary artists, the Gallery also concentrates on the production of well-known Czech glass factories, whose collaboration with visual artists continue to bring distinctive style to the companies.



Zdeněk Lhotský

Lhotský s.r.o.

Pelechov 17

468 22 Železný Brod

Czech republic

tel/fax: +420 483 389334

+420 483 389292

mobil: +420 603 235983

lhotsky@lhotsky.cz

www.lhotsky.com



LHOTSKÝ