



CARMEN SPERA

Micaëla Gallery
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micaela.com/spera.html

CARMEN SPERA is a working artist who designs furniture in addition to sculpting glass and painting. Born in New York City, NY, Spera lives in Soho and works in Brooklyn, NY.

EDUCATION:

New York University, MA 1977;
University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy;
Queens College, Flushing, NY, BFA 1974

SELECTED ONE PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 G.F.A. Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 G.F.A. Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
The Gun Series Limited Edition Prints on Paper, Modern Multiples, Los Angeles, CA
- 2007 House of Cards, G.F.A. Gallery, Los Angeles, California Totem Series, On Site Installation,
Flickinger Glassworks, Brooklyn, NY
- 1999 The Odyssey, Neuhoff Gallery, New York, NY
- 1995 Game Tables, Heller Gallery, Palm Beach, FL
- 1992 Galleria Due Emme, Genoa, Italy
- 1991 Nuova Era Gallery, Bari, Italy
- 1989 House of Mirrors, Art et Industrie, New York, NY
- 1988 Tension, Art et Industrie, New York, NY
Heller Gallery, New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 Modern Multiples, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 G.F.A. Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2006 Gallery 1816, Bretenoux, France
- 2005 Leo Kaplan Gallery, New York, NY
- 2004 Maroma Gallery, Cancun, Mexico
Monumental Show, Brooklyn, NY
Art et Industrie, New York, NY
- 1994 Art et Industrie, New York, NY
- 1993 Heller Gallery, New York, NY
Leo Kaplan Gallery, New York, NY
Turbulence Gallery, New York, NY
- 1992 G.F.A. Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Gallery 91, New York, NY
Heller Gallery, New York, NY
- 1980 Art et Industrie, New York, NY
Art for Money, Fashion Moda Benefit, New York, NY
- 1991 Art et Industrie, New York, NY
Heller Gallery, New York, NY

- Dawson Gallery, Rochester, NY
 Gallery 91, New York, NY
 G.F.A. Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1990 Functional Art New York, Brutus Gallery, Osaka, Japan;
 IMZ Building Futuoka, Japan
- Heller Gallery, New York, NY
- 1989 Heller Gallery, New York, NY
- 1987 Experimental Glass Workshop, New York, NY
 Chattahoochee Valley Art Association, GA
 Heller Gallery, New York, NY
 Art et Industrie, New York, NY
- 1986 Art for Money, Fashion Moda Benefit, New York, NY
 Meredith Gallery, Baltimore, MD
 Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York, NY
 Heller Gallery, New York, NY
 Art et Industrie, New York NY
 Gallery 91, New York, NY
- 1985 New Art, Diverse Works, Houston, TX
 49th Parallel Gallery, New York, NY
 Art et Industrie, New York, NY
 Gallery 91, New York, NY
- 1984 House on the Borderline, White Columns, New York, NY
 Phoenix Show, Toronto, Canada
 Post Nuclearism, Red Studio, New York, NY
 Terminal Show, New York, NY
 Heller Gallery, New York, NY
 Art et Industrie, New York, NY
 Gallery 91, New York, New York
- 1983 Art Furniture, Hokin-Kaufman, Chicago, IL
 Ourhaus, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, NY
 Danceteria, New York, NY
 Art et Industrie, New York, NY
 Gallery 91, New York, NY
- 1982 Ward Island Sculpture Show, New York, NY
 Art et Industrie, New York, NY
- 1981 Coney Island Show, Coney Island, NY
 Monumental Show, Brooklyn, NY
 Art et Industrie, New York, NY
- 1980 Art et Industrie, New York, NY
 Art for Money, Fashion Moda Benefit, New York, NY
- 1977 Hensen Gallery, New York, NY
- 1975 Galleria d'Arte Grafica, Bologna, Italy
- 1977 Hensen Gallery, New York, NY
- 1975 Galleria d'Arte Grafica, Bologna, Italy

MUSEUMS

Permanent Collection , American Craft Museum, New York, New York

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAHY

- Domergue, Denise. Artist-Designed Furniture. New York: Abrams, 1984.
- Frank, Peter and Michael McKenzie. New, Used and Improved: Art for the Eighties. New York: Abbeville. 1987.
- International Design Yearbook. New York: Abbeville, 1987.
- Jepson, Barbara. Art Furniture...American Craft, October/November 1985: 10-17.Z

EMPLOYMENT

- 2005-2008 Flickinger Glassworks, Brooklyn, New York. Coordinator – Special Projects. Design: Glass Panels, Waldorf Astoria, The Rainbow Room
- 2003-2004 New York University, New York, New York. Teacher - Contemporary Furniture
- 2002-2004 PRATT Institute, New York, New York. Teacher - Art Furniture Studio Course
- 2001-2003 Award Design, Special Commissions: Lincoln Center Winston Marsalis Jazz Award, ASCAP Jazz Foundation Wall of Fame
- 2000-2002 Katherine Gibbs, New York, New York. Teacher - 3-D Modeling/Visual Communication Department
- 1999-2008 Set Design, Freelancer. Fashion (Lucky, The Source, Essence, Vibe, Seventeen, InStyle), Advertising (L'Oreal, SoftSheen) and Recording Artist (Toni Braxton, Mariah Carey, Patti LaBelle)
- 1996-1998 Parsons School of Design, New York, New York. Teacher - Introduction to Furniture Design

STATEMENT

Although many describe me as a glass artist, it is more accurate to say I am an artist who works with glass.

I started as a painter in the late 1970's, was a pioneer of the vanguard art furniture movement of the 1980's, and eventually stumbled into the glass world by doing reverse-painting on glass after a trip to Haiti in 1981. I've experimented with painting, casting metals and carving wood, but I'm particularly drawn to doing unconventional work with glass. I currently have a studio within a glass-slumping factory in Red Hook, Brooklyn and take advantage of the industrial techniques I'm exposed to there to create art objects infused with sociopolitical commentary that I find interesting and relevant.

I've taken the iconic images of assault weapons that typically inspire reactions of fear and discomfort and rendered them fragile by creating them from glass. I've also branded them with high fashion design emblems. These pieces join themes of violence and aggression with luxury and class, and are designed to evoke dialogue on power, the global market and arms trade. I am also reclaiming images that have recently been used by our government and media to spread fear and distrust, and challenging the viewer to perceive them within a larger, more nuanced context.

Thorns involves a more classical use of glass, drawing on its magnifying and reflecting qualities through the use of curvature, layering and mirror. This piece reveals itself slowly and incorporates the viewer's image into a prism of beauty and pain.

The essence of my work is to find the sacred in everything.