

CARMEN SPERA

Micaëla Gallery
49 Geary Street, No. 234
San Francisco, CA 94108 USA
415.551.8118
micaela.com



CARMEN SPERA



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.

CARMEN SPERA



EDUCATION:

New York University, M.F.A., 1977;
University of Bologna, Bologna Italy;
Queens College, Flushing, New York, B.F.A., 1974

SELECTED ONE PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2009
G.F.A. Gallery, Los Angeles, California

2008
G.F.A. Gallery, Los Angeles, California
The Gun Series Limited Edition Prints on Paper, Modern Multiples, Los Angeles, California

2007
House of Cards, G.F.A. Gallery, Los Angeles, California
Totem Series, On Site Installation, Flickinger Glassworks, Brooklyn, New York

1999
The Odyssey, Neuhoff Gallery, New York, New York

1995
Game Tables, Heller Gallery, Palm Beach, Florida

1992
Galleria Due Emme, Genoa Italy

1991
Nuova Era Gallery, Bari Italy

1989
House of Mirrors, Art et Industrie, New York, New York

1988
Tension, Art et Industrie, New York, New York
Heller Gallery, New York, New York

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2009
Modern Multiples, Los Angeles, California

2008
G.F.A. Gallery, Los Angeles, California

2006
Gallery 1816, Bretenoux, France

2005
Leo Kaplan Gallery, New York, New York

2004
Maroma Gallery, Cancun, Mexico
Monumental Show, Brooklyn, New York
Art et Industrie, New York New York

1994
Art et Industrie, New York, New York

1993
Heller Gallery, New York, New York
Leo Kaplan Gallery, New York, New York
Turbulence Gallery, New York, New York

1992
G.F.A. Gallery, Los Angeles, California
Gallery 91, New York, New York
Heller Gallery, New York, New York

1980
Art et Industrie, New York New York
Art for Money, Fashion Moda Benefit, New York, New York

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1991

Art et Industrie, New York New York
Heller Gallery, New York, New York
Dawson Gallery, Rochester, New York
Gallery 91, New York, New York
G.F.A. Gallery, Los Angeles, California

1990

Functional Art New York, Brutus Gallery, Osaka, Japan;
IMZ Building Futuoka, Japan
Heller Gallery, New York, New York

1989

Heller Gallery, New York, New York

1987

Experimental Glass Workshop, New York, New York
Chattahoochee Valley Art Association, Georgia
Heller Gallery, New York, New York
Art et Industrie, New York New York

1986

Art for Money, Fashion Moda Benefit, New York, New York
Meredith Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland
Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York, New York
Heller Gallery, New York, New York
Art et Industrie, New York New York
Gallery 91, New York, New York

1985

New Art, Diverse Works, Houston, Texas
49th Parallel Gallery, New York, New York
Art et Industrie, New York New York
Gallery 91, New York, New York

1984

House on the Borderline, White Columns, New York, New York
Phoenix Show, Toronto Canada
Post Nuclearism, Red Studio, New York, New York
Terminal Show, New York, New York
Heller Gallery, New York, New York
Art et Industrie, New York New York
Gallery 91, New York, New York

1983

Art Furniture, Hokin-Kaufman, Chicago Illinois
Ourhaus, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, New York;
Danceteria, New York, New York
Art et Industrie, New York New York
Gallery 91, New York, New York

1982

Ward Island Sculpture Show, New York, New York
Art et Industrie, New York New York

1981

Coney Island Show, Coney Island, New York
Monumental Show, Brooklyn, New York
Art et Industrie, New York New York

1980

Art et Industrie, New York New York
Art for Money, Fashion Moda Benefit, New York, New York

1977

Hensen Gallery, New York, New York

1975

Galleria d'Arte Grafica, Bologna, Italy

1977

Hensen Gallery, New York, New York

1975

Galleria d'Arte Grafica, Bologna, Italy

MUSEUMS

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

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Winter Salon 2009
Carmen Spera

House of Cards, 2009.
Glass, oil paint.
12 x 3.5 x 14 in.
\$2400



COLD+HOT 2009

Carmen Spera

Thorns, 2009.

Kiln formed + engraved glass, mirror.

Diameter 24 x 6 in.

\$2400

Micaëla **Gallery**

Contemporary Fine Art + Sculpture



COLD+HOT 2009

Carmen Spera



AK-47, 2009.

Carved, laminated, tinted + sandblasted glass,
mirror.

10 x 36 x 2.5 in.

\$3600

Micaëla Gallery

Contemporary Fine Art + Sculpture

COLD+HOT 2009

Carmen Spera



Tactical Weapons (various), 2009

Carved, laminated, tinted + sandblasted glass,
mirror.

Dimensions variable:

Approx. 11 x 36 x 2.5 in.

\$3600 ea.



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