

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

VANDA ZEBRAK & PETER SMYTH



Vanda's background is in animal welfare, latterly having managed an animal hospital in London for 13 years and husband Peter spent nearly three decades in advertising and digital media before they together decided on a change of pace and lifestyle. Vanda has painted since her teens and embroidered since her twenties. It was her amazing embroideries of woodlands and hedgerows that inspired Peter to collaborate with Vanda on their glass art project.

They are self-taught glass artists, having switched on the kiln six years ago, working from their home based studio in Arundel, West Sussex. Their style is unique and their glass art has found its way to the four corners of the globe.

Vanda and Peter draw their creative inspiration from their love of trees, foliage and flowers and how they change and interact with the light of the sun and the passing of

the seasons. Their work features the ever changing woodlands as well as the beauty and diversity of the hedgerow and our fast disappearing meadows.

Glass is a wonderfully natural and flexible medium to work with and unlike any other in its ability to absorb, transmit and reflect light. Through it they try to capture how it feels to stand in awe in the middle of a beautiful bluebell wood, experience the joy of a multi-coloured midsummer meadow or marvel at the striking colours of an autumn woodland. A single piece of their work takes more than four days to create using a combination of glass forming techniques - fusing, tack fusing, cold working and slumping. Materials used are sheet glass, frits, stringers and glass paint so the end product is 100% glass. The process is intricate and painstaking and each piece is fused in the kiln three times to create the image before it is ground and slumped. Each one is unique, on the one hand robust and sturdy and on the other delicately interacting with changes in lighting conditions from morning till night.

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