



Stanislav Libenský / Jaroslava Brychtová

(1924–2020 / 1921–2002)

Lived and worked in Železný Brod and Prague, Czechia)

The glass art of Jaroslava Brychtová (1924–2020) and Stanislav Libenský (1921–2002) represents one of the most significant chapters in Czech and global modern glass. Their work fundamentally changed the way glass can be understood as an autonomous sculptural and architectural material. Together, they created a complex artistic language based on the technological and optical properties of glass, the slow flow of the material, compact formal reduction, and a thoughtful engagement with the inner space of the mass. Their sculptures, reliefs, and architectural projects combine technical virtuosity with a spiritual dimension. Symbolically, they offer a meditative experience of light, in which the abstract form becomes the bearer of a quiet yet profound existential expression.

The work of Brychtová and Libenský includes hundreds of sculptural objects and dozens of architectural commissions that significantly influenced the development of world glass in the second half of the 20th century. Their works are now represented in major collections, including the Corning Museum of Glass, the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and numerous European and American institutions. Their legacy represents a synthesis of craftsmanship, technological innovation, sculptural vision, and a unique dialogue between light and matter – one without parallel in the international context.

EDUCATION:

Stanislav Libensky

1937-1939

Specialized School of Glassmaking, Novy Bor (Haida) and Zelezny Brod, Czechia

1939-1944

School of Applied Arts, glass atelier, Prague, Czechia

1949-1950

Academy of Applied Arts, glass atelier , Prague Czechia

Jaroslava Brychtova

1945-1951

Studies at the Academy of Applied Arts, Prague, Czechia

1947-1950

Academy of Fine Arts, Prague Czechia

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2023

Bohemian Glass: The Great Masters, Caterina Tognon, Venice, Italy

2022

Via Lucis, Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, Prague, Czechia

2018

Chihuly – Libenský – Brychtová, DOX, Prague, Czechia

2016–2017

Stanislav Libenský & Jaroslava Brychtová, Toyama Glass Art Museum, Toyama, Japan

2003

Libenský and His Students, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, United States

2002

Stanislav Libenský a Jaroslava Brychtová, National Gallery, Veletržní palác, Prague, Czechia

Stanislav Libenský – kresby, Galerie My, Jablonec nad Nisou, Czechia

2001

Pocta Stanislavu Libenskému, Vysoká škola uměleckoprůmyslová, Prague, Czechia

Stanislav Libenský – kresby, Galerie Aspekt, Brno, Czechia

Stanislav Libenský a Jaroslava Brychtová, Městské muzeum, Pardubice, Czechia

Profesor Libenský a jeho pokračovatelé, Severočeské muzeum, Liberec, Czechia

Libenský a Brychtová, Galerie Na Janském vršku, Prague, Czechia

2000

In the Presence of Angels, Heller Gallery, New York, United States

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Stanislav Libenský a Jaroslava Brychtová. Sochy a kresby, Galerie Univerzity Karlovy v Karolinu, Prague, Czechia

Stálá expozice, Česká spořitelna, Železný Brod, Czechia

1999

Stanislav Libenský / Jaroslava Brychtová, Galerie výtvarného umění, Ostrava, Czechia

1998

I Grandi Vetri: Sculture e Disegni, Loggia del Palazzo della Regione, Bergamo, Italy

1997

Stanislav Libenský – Jaroslava Brychtová, Habatat Galleries, Boca Raton, United States

Stanislav Libenský – Jaroslava Brychtová. Výběr z díla. Skulptury a kresby, Severočeské muzeum, Liberec, Czechia

Artistes verriers contemporains Europe, Etats-Unis, Musée des arts décoratifs, Lausanne, Switzerland

1996

Sacral Places, Heller Gallery, New York, United States

Space – Light – Glass, Maurine Littleton Gallery, Washington, D.C., United States

Internationale New Glass, Craft Museum, New York, United States

Venezia Aperto Vetro, Venice, Italy

1995

Stanislav Libenský / Jaroslava Brychtová + Michael Gabriel, Pražský hrad, Prague, Czechia

Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová: Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture, Elliott Brown Gallery, Seattle, United States

Exempla 95, IHM, Munich, Germany

Expanded Glass: Traditional and Contemporary, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan

Space – Light – Glass, Míčovna Pražského hradu, Prague, Czechia

The European Fine Art Fair, Maastricht, Netherlands

1994

Habatat Galleries, Boca Raton, United States

Libenský / Brychtová: A 40 Year Collaboration in Glass, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, United States

1993

Heller Gallery, New York, United States

1992

Clara Scremini Galerie, Paris, France

1991

Habatat Galleries, Detroit, United States

Glassculpturen S. Libenský – J. Brychtová, Museum voor Sierkunst, Ghent, Belgium

1990

Galerie Gottschalk-Betz, Frankfurt, Germany

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Libenský / Brychtová – Glass Sculpturen, Heller Gallery, New York, United States
Sculpturen aus Glas – Eine Retrospektive 1945–1990, Museum Bellerive, Zurich, Switzerland

1989

Libenský–Brychtová, Retrospektiva 1945–1989, Národní galerie, Valdštejnská jízdárna, Prague, Czechia

1988

Clara Scremini Galerie, Paris, France
Glass Sculpture, Heller Gallery, New York, United States

1986

Habatat Galleries, Miami, United States
S. Libenský und seine Schüler, Essener Glasgalerie, Essen, Germany

1985

Libenský – Brychtová, Zámek Mnichovo Hradiště, Mnichovo Hradiště, Czechia

1984

Habatat Galleries, Lathrup Village, United States

Hiekan Taidemuseo, Tampere, Finland

1983

Libenský / Brychtová – Retrospektiv, Suomen Lasimuseo, Riihimäki, Finland

1976–1977

Transparente Formen – 4 Glasmacher aus Prag, Museum Bellerive, Zurich, Switzerland

1967

Galerie Form und Qualität, Munich, Germany

1966

Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

1965

VIII Art Biennale in São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

1962

Galerie Československého spisovatele, Prague, Czechia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

1997

Umelecká beseda 97, Galerie Manes, Prague, Czechia
Czech Art, Riley Hawk Galleries, Cleveland, United States
Masters of Contemporary Glass, Museum of Art, Indianapolis, United States
Recent Glass Sculpture, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, United States
Memories in Glass, Time and Space, Galerie International du Verre, Biot, France

1996

Umelecká beseda 96, Galerie Manes, Prague, Czechia
The 24th Annual International Glass Invitational, Habatat Galleries, Pontiac, United States

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1995

Contemporary Glass Exhibition '95, Taipei, Taiwan

Czech Mould – Melted Glass Objects 95, Museum of Glass and Jewellery, Jablonec nad Nisou, Czechia

The European Fine Art Fair, Maastricht, Netherlands

Couleurs et Transparence: Chefs-d'œuvre de verre contemporain, Musée national de la Céramique, Sèvres, France

International Glass Art Project 1995, Alden Biesen, Bilzen, Belgium

Meisterwerke der tschechischen Glaskunst, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany

Four Glass Schools, Art Glass Centre International, Schalkwijk, Netherlands

1994

Umelecka beseda – Galerie Manes, Prague, Czechia

1993

Umelecka beseda – Galerie Manes, Prague, Czechia

Umelecka beseda, Dům umění města Brna, Brno, Czechia

Tschechische und schwedische Glaskunst, Glasgalerie Hittfeld, Seevetal, Germany

Contemporary Crafts and the Saxe Collection, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, United States

1992

Nomades du Verre, Albi, Montpellier and Paris, France

Czech Glass, Haumstad, Sweden

Moderne tschechische Glaskunst, Galleri Glas I, Stockholm, Sweden

Peter Engelhorn Gedächtnis Ausstellung, Musée des arts décoratifs, Lausanne, Switzerland

International Exhibition of Contemporary Glass, Museo Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico

Design Visions, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia

La magie du verre, Galerie d'art Annie Chevalley, Montreux, Switzerland

Mendocino, Cone Solow Gallery, Mendocino, United States

Contemporary Kilnformed Glass: An International Exhibition, Habatat Galleries, Boca Raton, United States

Museum of Art, Oslo, Norway

MARC Museo, Monterrey, Mexico

1991

Heller's Prize 1991, Galerie Mánes, Prague, Czechia

World Glass Now 1991, Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo, Japan

Kunstmesse Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany

Europäische Dialoge, Museum der Stadt Bochum, Bochum, Germany

Configura, Erfurt, Germany

Exposition de Verre, Musée des Beaux-Arts et de la Céramique, Rouen, France

Nomades del Vidre, Parque de la Ciutadella, Barcelona, Spain

Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan

1990

Glas: Van Drinkbeker tot Kunstobject, Provinciaal Museum Sterckshof, Antwerp, Belgium

Kunstmesse Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany

Neues Glas in Europa, Kunstmuseum Düsseldorf / Glasmuseum Hentrich, Düsseldorf, Germany

1989

Expression en Verre II, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Lausanne, Switzerland

Contemporary European Sculptures in Crystal and Glass, Générale de Banque, Liège, Belgium

Verre de Bohême 1400–1989, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France

1988

Artistes Verriers de Tchécoslovaquie, Kredietbank / Galerie Transparence, Brussels, Belgium
European Glass, Kent State University, Kent, United States
Mezinárodní sklářské symposium, Nový Bor, Czechia
50. léta – užité umění a design, Uměleckoprůmyslové muzeum, Prague, Czechia
New Czech Glass – Pupils of Prof. S. Libenský, The Finnish Glass Museum, Riihimäki, Finland

1987

Vidre d'Art – 25 Artistes Tchécoslovaques, Parc de la Ciutadella, Barcelona, Spain
Skleněná plastika, Dům umění města Brna, Brno, Czechia
České užité umění 1885–1985, Uměleckoprůmyslové muzeum, Prague, Czechia
Glass 87 in Japan, Odakyu Department Store Grand Gallery / Fukuoka Iwataya Department Store Exhibition Hall, Japan

1986

4. Quadriennale des Kunsthandwerks sozialistischer Länder, Galerie am Fischmarkt, Erfurt, Germany
Expressions en Verre I, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Lausanne, Switzerland
Contemporary Czechoslovak Glass in Architecture, University of London, Institute of Education, London, UK
Contemporary American and European Glass from the Saxe Collection, The Oakland Museum / Museum of Contemporary Crafts, Oakland and New York, United States

1985

Kunsthandwerk aus der Tschechoslowakei, Galerie am Weidendamm, Berlin / Galerie am Fischmarkt, Erfurt, Germany
Contemporary Czechoslovakian Glass Art, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, United States
Zweiter Coburger Glaspreis, Kunstsammlungen der Veste Coburg, Coburg, Germany
Art du Verre – Actualité internationale, Musée des Beaux-Arts et de la Céramique, Rouen, France
World Glass Now '85, Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo, Japan

1984

Moderne Skulptur i Glas fra Tjekkioslovakiet, Galerie Den Permanente, Copenhagen, Denmark
Architectonische en Geometrische Glassculpturen, Zwolsche Algemeene Verzekeringen, Nieuwegein, Netherlands
Československé sklo '84, Národní galerie, Valdštejnská jízdárna, Prague, Czechia
Setkání: Skleněná plastika v historickém prostředí, Castle Telč, Telč, Czechia

1983

Skleněná plastika, Dům umění města Brna, Brno, Czechia
Moderne Tjekkioslovakisk Glas, Det Danske Kunstindustrimuseum, Copenhagen, Denmark
Masters of Czech Glass 1945–65, Dan Klein Gallery, London, UK
Contemporary Czechoslovakian Glass, Kurland/Summers Gallery, Los Angeles, United States
Czechoslovak Glass – Seven Masters, Museum of Contemporary Crafts of the American Craftsmen's Council, New York, United States
Prostor 2, Veletržní palác, Prague, Czechia
300 Years of Bohemian Glass and Costume Jewellery, Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo, Japan
Contemporary Czechoslovakian Glass, Habatat Galleries, Bay Harbor Islands, United States

1982

Glas unserer Zeit in Kunst und Handwerk, Glasmuseum Frauenau, Frauenau, Germany
Gläserne Kunstwerke, Werkstatt, Kassel, Germany
International Directions in Glass Art, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia
Prostor 1, Památník národního písemnictví, Prague, Czechia

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World Glass Now '82, Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo, Japan
International Glass Symposium '82, Nový Bor, Czechia

1981

Czechoslovakian Glass 1350–1980, The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, United States
Glaskunst '81, Orangerie, Kassel, Germany
Kunst in Glas aus der Tschechoslowakei, Rathaus, Munich, Germany

1980

Užití umění 1970–80, Moravská galerie, Brno, Czechia
Licht, Form, Gestalt, Kunstmuseum Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany
Contemporary Glass – Europe and Japan, The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan

1979

Sculptures et Volumes de Verre, Musée-Château d'Annecy / Galerie Tanneurs, Annecy and Tours, France
Glasgestalter aus der Tschechoslowakei, Glasmuseum Frauenau, Frauenau, Germany
Exempla 79, IHM, Munich, Germany
New Glass – A Worldwide Survey, The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, United States

1977

Transparente Formen – 4 Glasmacher aus Prag, Museum Bellerive, Zurich, Switzerland
Coburger Glaspreis, Kunstsammlungen der Veste Coburg, Coburg, Germany

1976

Modernes Glas aus Amerika, Europa und Japan, Museum für Kunsthandwerk, Frankfurt, Germany

1973

Metamorfózy skla, Moravská galerie, Brno, Czechia
Böhmisches Glas der Gegenwart, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany

1970

World Exposition EXPO '70, Czechoslovak Pavilion, Osaka, Japan

1968

Tapiserie und Glas aus der Tschechoslowakei, Kunstverein Heilbronn, Heilbronn, Germany

1967

World Exposition EXPO '67, Czechoslovak Pavilion, Montreal, Canada

1964

Glass – Czechoslovak and Italy, Museum of Contemporary Crafts of the American Craftsmen's Council, New York / Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, United States

1959

Glass 1959, The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, United States

1958

World Exposition EXPO '58, Czechoslovak Pavilion, Brussels, Belgium

1955

Současné sklo, Severočeské muzeum, Liberec, Czechia

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1950

Sklo a výtvarník, Galerie Československého spisovatele, Prague, Czechia

AWARDS:

1958

Grand Prix - World Exposition EXPO 1958, Brussels, Belgium

1966

Golden Medail - VIII. Biennale in Sao Paulo, Brazil

1967

Bayerischer Staatspreis - Goldmedaille, Munchen Internationale Handwerksmesse

1968

Prize of Town Prague - Prague, Veitsdom (Fenster der Wenzels-kapelle)

1969

Goldmedaille - Stuttgart, Germany, Internationales Kunsthandwerk

1975

Stanislav Libensky, "Herder-Preis", Universitat Wien, Austria

1977

Ehrenpreis - Coburg, Germany, Coburger Glaspreis 1977

1981

Ehrenpreis - Kassel, Glaskunst 1981

1984

Rakow Award for Excellence in the Art of Glass - Corning NY

1985

Ehrenpreis - Coburg, Zweiter Coburger Glaspreis

1989

Art Prize - Chevaliere de l'ordre des arts et des lettres, Paris, France

1994

Stanislav Libensky - Doctor of the Royal College of Art, honoris causa

1995

Bayerischer Staatspreis - Goldmedaille, München -Internationale Handwerksmesse

1997

Lifetime Achievement Award , American Craft Museum, New York
Urban Glass Award, Lifetime Achievement, Brooklyn, NY

1999

Doctor of the University of Sunderland, Great Britain, honoris causa

2000

The Degree of Honorary Doctor of fine Arts, The Trustees of Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

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2001

Stanislav Libensky, Doctor honoris causa, Vysoka skola umeleckoprumyslova Praha