

Gérald Vatrín

THE JOURNEY OF A GLASS VIRTUOSO



maison parisienne



Gérald Vatrín, Cellules, 2009, Musée des Beaux Arts de Nancy © François Golfier

PRESS RELEASE



Gérald Vatrin, portrait ©JC Martinez

Gérald Vatrin explores glass as he explores the world, with immense curiosity and wonder.

Today he is one of the leading figures in the French glass revival and his work is recognised internationally.

While blowing this incandescent, age-old, mysterious, and sometimes unsettling material, Gérald Vatrin continues to be fascinated by its multitude of transformations. The solid and sculptural forms that he creates reveal unique effects of transparency and luminosity.

Like windows opening onto foreign landscapes, the artist's works reveal a realm of visual and tactile sensations while exploring a world that is sometimes botanical, sometimes tribal, sometimes pierced like lace or covered in frost; while at other times it, appearing to be made of leather, sand or lava stone.

Gérald Vatrin has been represented by maison parisienne since 2010.

His work is featured in numerous public institutions - including the Musée des Arts Décoratifs (MAD) in Paris, the Musée du Verre de Sars-Potterie in France, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Dutch National Glass Museum in Leedam in the Netherlands - as well as in several private collections, such as the Ernsting Foundation Alter Hof Herding in Germany.



Gérald Vatrin, Le Verre vu du ciel XII, 2021 ©maison parisienne



Gérald Vatrin, Trait d'union I, 2018, MAD - Musée des Arts Décoratifs Paris ©Amadou Traoré

GLASS AS A STATEMENT

Gérald Vatrin was born in Nancy, the birthplace of glass and crystal work, near the famous Saint-Louis and Baccarat factories. After graduating from the École des Beaux-Arts in Épinal, he returned to his roots to study and continue developing his exceptional skills at the Centre Européen de Recherche et de Formation aux Arts Verriers (CERFAV) between 1997 and 1999.

Gérald Vatrin then joined the Centre International de Recherche sur le Verre et les Arts plastiques (CIRVA) to assist guest artists and designers, including Jean-Michel Othoniel, Anish Kapoor, Erik Dietman, Pierre Charpin and Ettore Sottsass. He also had the chance to collaborate with two great glassmakers, Monica Guggisberg and Philip Baldwin.

Driven by a deep desire to learn and on a quest for discovery, Gérald Vatrin soon left his native region in France to explore the world and to confront other cultures in Canada, Australia and Africa, among others. All these sensorial experiences contribute to his artistic vocabulary and set his creations apart, such as the leather and clay work that he discovered in Djenné, Mali.

THE EXPRESSION OF VERSATILE CRAFTSMANSHIP

Thanks to his extensive training, **Gérald Vatrín** masters several glassmaking techniques, both hot (blowing, modelling, etc.) and cold (enamel, engraving, etc.). The locations to complete hot work vary and require a team; the decorations and finishes of the cold work are carried out in his own workshop in Nancy.

From the malleable molten material, the artist blows a simple form and allows it to solidify before initiating a long process of refinement by cutting the glass, enamelling, adding pigments and even sewing when braided leather is used to dress the openings that he calls “passages”.

Engraving is also a significant technique for the artist. With the help of an engraver’s micro-tool, which he uses like a pencil, **Gérald Vatrín** cuts the surface of the glass with the desired motif. His gestures are spontaneous and instinctive in the manner of ethnic drawings, never contrived.



Gérald Vatrín, Bolini, 2015
Musée des Beaux Arts de Nancy ©François Golfier



Gérald Vatrín, Cristal II, 2022 ©maison parisienne



Gérald Vatrín, Variations Pictorales I, 2023 ©maison parisienne

All unique, the multi-textured sculptures reveal a play of light and shadow, of gloss and matt. Some have the appearance of ice, others of lava stone. As a result of the fusion of cultural influences on several levels, the works convey feelings of calm, agitation, power or restraint.

Gérald Vatrín also puts his expertise at the service of various cultural heritage projects, such as the restoration of eight glass lights, globes and basins for the Villa Majorelle in Nancy, in association with CERFAV.

RECOGNITION OF AN ARTISTIC LANGUAGE

The work of **Gérald Vatrín** has achieved numerous awards, including the Grand Prix de la Création de la Ville de Paris (2001) and the Médaille d'Étain de la Société Académique des Arts, Sciences et Lettres de Paris for the recognition of his work as a whole (2015).

His fascinating and evocative works have won over an audience of distinguished collectors and renowned museums. In 2019, following the Collect show in London, maison parisienne enabled the acquisition of the work *Le Seuil* by the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. The following year, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris did the same with *Trait d'Union*.

In 2022, nine of the artist's sculptures entered the permanent collections of the Nancy Museum of Fine Arts and will be exhibited there from March 2023.

Gérald Vatrín is one of the next seven artists selected to stay at Villa Kujoyama in 2023, a prestigious multidisciplinary artistic residence situated in the hills above Kyoto, Japan.



Gérald Vatrín, *Le Seuil*, 2018, Victoria & Albert Museum ©Amadou Traoré



Gérald Vatrín, *Sable*, 2021 ©Amadou Traoré

New creations by **Gérald Vatrín** are proudly showcased on maison parisienne's stand at PAD Paris and PAD London each year. These internationally renowned design fairs offer a platform to unveil the latest creations by maison parisienne's remarkable artists.



Press contact

Phoebe Taschner-Baldwin – phoebe@alexandrapr.com
+33 (0)1 47 58 08 03
www.alexandrapr.com