

ALEX R: ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I primarily work in glass, a medium which I find endlessly captivating. At once hard and brittle, it can be perilously sharp yet it is technically a liquid, infinitesimally viscous and remodelled by gravity over hundreds of years. I love the fact that glass can be embellished and manipulated using centuries-old techniques such as fusing, painting or leading, yet it can also be one of the most dynamic and contemporary materials to work with. Glass is about both surface and depth: one looks at it and through it, which renders it simultaneously there and not there.

The material itself provides the starting point and I take my cues from there. Each piece explores the magical qualities of glass, a medium which delights the eye and invites the sense of touch. Intricate surfaces are the signature style of both my personal work and my commissioned work, whether it is through the use of opulently layered colour or elaborate textures. I find it rewarding to work around colour themes: by limiting my palette to one or two hues, I can revel in the contrasts of tone and texture. My work often incorporates iridescent and reflective surfaces which means the glass is effective under many different lighting conditions.

Much of my practice involves producing work on commission for both public and private clients. This work ranges from interior objects, such as wall-hung lightboxes and sumptuous glass vessels, to architectural panels and large scale installations of glass. I enjoy working to a brief, and quite often find that the collaborative nature of the commissioning process brings challenges that develop my work both technically and artistically.