

World famous Czech architect and designer Bořek Šípek, (b. 1949) is a visionary cutting edge artist, who always seeks to showcase glassware as a world of unlimited dimensions, functions and artistic beauty. His glassware is bought and sold all over the world as both functional art and pure art. His creations, include decorative candlesticks, party plates (servers), incense holders and drinkware such as delicate champagne toasting flutes with rose motiff, or elegant wine glasses. Furthermore, Bořek Šípek creations extend to high value items such as limited editions of purely decorative art, vases and bowls that are created as a visual feast providing the viewer with the majesty and whimsy of glass as a raw material that can momentarily capture light or reflect light thereby hinting at the timelessness and yet fragility of the critical mass of glass.

As early as 1968, as a protege of his famous mentor, glass artistic visionary Rene Roubíček, young Bořek Šípek was also encouraged to further develop his creative vision by gaining yet more professional technical expertise and experience. And so following university studies in architecture in Germany and subsequently working in the Netherlands as a licensed architect,

Šípek began his first creative outputs as a professional by designing buildings and interiors. And yet, even then, throughout the 1960s, Šípek still had a passion for glass and dedicated time to grow as an artist using glass: and so he evolved as a serious designer of glass art, producing 3-dimensional art works as new worlds "sculptured" entirely in glass.

Throughout the next few decades following on from the 1970s, as Šípek grew as an artist and designer, architect and unique creative visionary, influential people throughout the art world began to take note. The prestigious Italian design company, Driade was one of the initial art-houses to utilize Šípek's unique vision and creative focus. Proposals and bids began to include Šípek more and more as a creative collaborator. Bořek Šípek creations and collaborations included projects such as: Sèvres dinner sets, the Museum of Modern Art in Den Bosch in the Netherlands, the Opera House in Kyoto, Japan, while he also helped realize the Ginza store in Tokyo. And furthermore, Bořek Šípek has become associated with the image of the famous Parisian Lagerfeld's boutique for whom, he created the Bible of boutiques. Global art houses associated with Šípek creations also include Interior Designer, Vitra Editions Steltman and Franz Wittmann Möbelwerkstätten. Bořek Šípek has received several prestigious awards including the German Award for Architecture (1983), the title of Knight of Arts and Literature of the French Republic (1991), and in 1993 the Award of Prince Bernhard for Applied Arts and Architecture. In the 1980s Šípek became - in the spirit of his original glass maker profession - a co-founder of the now famous Czech glass company Ajeto with workshops in Nový Bor and Lindava, North Bohemia. Simultaneously, awarded the role of Chief architect of Prague Castle, he began to oversee on-site works carried out on castle hill. In this capacity, he became the only architect since Josip Plecnik legally sanctioned by the state to further develop the architectural and visual appearance of the castle interiors. And to accentuate and compliment these Prague Castle developments, unique Bořek Šípek Castle-Wares (furniture, fixtures, interiors & accessories) were conceived, created and produced. Dinner-sets, tables, chairs, unique chandeliers, lighting fixtures, vases, completely newly designed tableware: wine & champagne glasses and flutes, were all created as unique components to "live and breathe"- i.e., be utilized - throughout Prague Castle. Culminating his creative and architectural design outputs exclusively for Prague Castle, Šípek has produced glass-art-ware as gifts for representatives and heads-of-state visiting Prague Castle during President Vaclav Havel's era.

And it is not just politicians and royal heads of state that enjoy Šípek creations; Bořek Šípek graces the homes of the rich and famous throughout the world. World famous personalities who own or have owned Šípek art including the likes of: Mick Jagger, Bob Dylan, Karl Lagerfeld, Jean Paul Gautier and Vaclav Havel. While in his native country, the Czech Republic, Marta Kubišová, Jan Tříska, Michael Kocáb, Halina Pawlovská, and artist Jan Saudek, are among the many who own Bořek Šípek creations.

In his work as an artist that uses glass as his core material, Bořek Šípek has always been keen to build on the historical tradition and legacy of Czech glass manufacturing and artistry which goes back



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hundreds of years. Still fascinated by traditional Czech glass-blowing techniques, as he first was as a teenager, Šípek has constantly sought to promote Czech glassworks throughout the world during his sojourns abroad as an architect, artist and designer. And it has been, in this his personal capacity to be an enthusiastic visionary and generous promoter of Czech artistic design excellence in the field of glassware that Šípek has spearheaded the influence of Czech glass production in the field of glassware throughout the world. For Bořek Šípek approaches glass, the art of glass and glass production and manufucturing as a craft and lively hood in North Bohemia (where his glassworks is based) with a reverence and a humility that seeks to showcase what Czech artists and craftsmen and women have thus far achieved and can achieve as a world renowned industry with depth of experience and skills that are competitive on the world stage, populated by renowned designers, glass-blowers and artists dedicated and passionate about glass and the production of high-end quality works.

Glassworks Projects conceived and created by Bořek Šípek include: the architectural exhibition pavilion Skoda

in Wolfsburg, Germany for the World Exposition EXPO 2000, which was completely designed by Šípek, for which his glassworks in Lindava (North Bohemia, CR) manufactured the exclusively large lamps and glass interior parts, and other three-dimensional installations, for this event. Additional projects of great distinction include, the VIP "Crystal Lounge" of the Ruzyně airport (Vaclav Havel Airport Prague), Czech Republic. While during the period of 2000-2001 the Cunard ocean liners, Carnival Pride and Carnival Spirit where outfitted with hundreds of glass objects-d'art and tableware. And for the renovated Opera House in central Belgrade, Šípek created its unique chandelier, 15 meters in height, with a width of some 3.5 meters constructed entirely of over 450 interlinking glass parts. In 2004, German china brand Rosenthal approached Šípek, with an offer to conceive and collaborate on ideas for exclusive Rosenthal themed collections. Subsequently, theme-based collections of Rosengarden 2004 were introduced, immediately becoming best-sellers giving birth to yet more Bořek Šípek conceptions & collaborations. A limited collection of porcelain wall lights called "Fragile" was also introduced by Šípek in Prague at Designblok 2008.

Uniquely one-off limited editions and activities: For several years now, Šípek he has also been designing awards for Czech Television. For example, he designed the price for the most competitive program with a focus on history - "The Crown of King Charles" and the Thálie Prize, awarded by the Association of Performing Arts in the Czech Republic to artists for their outstanding dramatic performances. For the educational sector during the 1990s, Šípek gave lectures in architecture at the University of Applied Arts in Prague, followed by a brief tenure as visiting lecturer at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. And more recently, Bořek Šípek acted as Dean of Faculty, Architecture, at the Technical University in Liberec, where he founded an entirely new study program, "Environmental Design".

Promoting Art and Culture at home & abroad: In 2008 Bořek Šípek led the first exhibition of Czech artists in Beijing, China, while in Shanghai, he received a significant honor - he was allowed to build his own gallery using his own blueprints (Bořek Šípek architectural designs) for installing his "Bořek Šípek best collections" exhibit. Such opportunities reveal the extent to which Bořek Šípek has become admired throughout the world, as an artist and designer in his own right, at home and abroad. And as a tireless promoter of the potential and opportunity that glass as a material provides the artist whatever the culture or wherever the installation or exhibit happens to be. Šípek's design work, admired for its extravagant shapes and playful colors, is also represented in prominent museums around the globe - in Düsseldorf, London, Paris, Amsterdam, New York, and of course in Prague, the capital city of his homeland. One of the latest major projects has been designing a memorial of slaves "dragged away from Africa", called a Memorial de Gorée, which he designed along with Martin Gudev for Senegal. And at the beginning of this year (2011/12), Bořek Šípek opened his own glassworks in Nový Bor, named "Studio Anežka" (Agnes Studio).

It can be said, if anything can be said to encapsulate Bořek Šípek the artist, the visionary, the designer, that Bořek Šípek likes to exist without limits!































