

Circus of Spheres / Cirque de Spheres



This book accompanies a major exhibition in the Carte Blanche series at the Musee de Design et d'arts Appliques Contemporains, Lausanne, Switzerland, devoted to the internationally acclaimed Swiss art glassmakers. The plan is to exhibit various aspects of their activity, ranging from design to artistic research, in collaboration with prestigious companies such as Venini of Italy and Schlaepfer, famous in Switzerland in the field of textiles. Moon Circus, the sculpture installation created for Venini, is a suite of blown glass spheres with delicately crafted surfaces, mounted on gracefully curved vertical metal rods which are attached to a metal frame. The artists use a range of colours and techniques to create a work made entirely by mouth and by hand. Preparatory drawings and sketches of the finished work form a diptych with the pieces, illustrating the working process. A Circus of Spheres highlights the sculpturally formal and aesthetically experimental quality of Baldwin and Guggisbergs work in an ensemble of five sculptures which elaborate on the theme of the sphere. The Guardians series was undertaken in 1996 for the first art glass biennial Venezia Aperto Vetro. The soaring forms and accentuated modelling of the surfaces echo the fabrics of Screen Textiles, next to which they will be displayed. Screen Textiles is the result of Baldwin and Guggisbergs first collaboration with the textile industry and fashion; in partnership with the Swiss firm Schlaepfer, they were able to transpose the wonderful decorative motifs of their glasswork onto fabrics. The book features a wealth of illustrations, as well as an interview with the artists, and comments by artists and personalities in the field of the Decorative Arts and Design.

