

TANJA PAK

Biography

TANJA PAK is a visual artist and designer working in the fields of sculpture, spatial installation and design in glass. She holds a Master's degree in Art from the Royal College of Art, London, and a BA degree in Industrial Design from the Academy of Fine Art, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. She is currently a Full Professor at the University of Ljubljana, where she leads the Department of Glass and Ceramics.

Her practice bridges design and contemporary art, with a focus on material investigation and spatial expression. She has exhibited internationally, and her works are held in public and private collections as well as integrated into architectural and urban environments. Pak has been awarded artist residencies at institutions including The Corning Museum of Glass (USA), Creative Glass Centre of America (USA), Pilchuck Glass School (USA), and the Musée du Verre (France), among others.

She has received significant international recognition, including the Grand Prize at the triennial 2024 Toyama International Glass Exhibition (Japan), two Red Dot Honourable Mention Design Awards (Germany), Slovenia's Designer of the Year award, and a Special Prize from the Arte Laguna Prize (Italy). Her work has been selected four times for the *New Glass Review* (Corning Museum of Glass, USA). She has been a finalist in the Kanazawa International Exhibition (Japan) twice, European Glass Context (Denmark) three times, Arte Laguna Prize (Italy) four times, and in other major juried international exhibitions.

Pak's current research focuses on themes of absence, impermanence, and the fragile nature of human existence. Through a multimedia approach, she explores the physical and emotional boundaries of space, embodiment, and vulnerability. Glass functions as her central medium, selected for its conceptual resonance and technical range. Her work engages with the poetics of materiality, positioning glass as a critical tool for articulating contemporary existential concerns.

Curriculum Vitae

Education

Royal College of Art, London
Master of Arts, MA (Ceramics and Glass)
July, 1996

Academy of Fine Arts and Design, University of Ljubljana
BA in Industrial Design
September, 1994

Full professorship (2014)

Selected professional positions

From 2002 to present, Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Ljubljana

Full professor since 2014

Head of Applied Arts / Glass and ceramics from 2008 to present

Associate professor from 2008 to 2014, Assistant professor from 2002 to 2008

From 1997 to present, designer and artist

Leading the design company Glesia d.o.o.

Project manager and designer, collaborating with various teams of professionals to execute product designs and/or large-scale installation art projects

Working on commission projects

Awards, Residencies and Fellowships

Full professorship, 2014

Grand Prix of the triennial Toyama International Glass Exhibition, JP, 2024

Red Dot Honourable Mention Design Award 2009

Red Dot Honourable Mention Design Award 2008

Designer of the Year 2011, SI

New Glass Review 37, 2016

New Glass Review 35, 2014

New Glass Review 33, 2012

New Glass Review 29, 2008

Arctic Circle Expedition, CA / N, 2026

Gunnar Gunnarson Residency, Klaustrid, IS, 2026

Honour guest at the International Glass Symposium, Experience of Glass, SI, 2025

Erasmus, Iceland Academy of the Arts, Reykjavik, IS, 2024

Erasmus, Royal College of Art, London, GB, 2023

One-month artist residency in New York (Ministry of Culture, Slovenia), USA, 2023

Receiver of the atelier in Švicarija Creative Centre in Ljubljana for five years, SI, 2022

Arte Laguna Prize 2021 finalist, IT, 2021

Maradiva / Arte Laguna Special Prize 2019, Mauritius, 2019 (award and residency)

Arte Laguna Prize 2020 finalist

Art residency in Musée du Verre, Sars-Poteries, FR, 2018

Receiver of the atelier in Švicarija Creative Centre in Ljubljana for five years, SI, 2017

Cill Rialagh residency, Transartist project, IE, 2019

Cill Rialagh residency, Transartist project, IE, 2018

Cill Rialagh residency, Transartist project, IE, 2017

International Glass Kanazawa finalist, JP, 2016

International Glass Symposium, active participation, Novy Bor, CZ, Oct. 2015

Arctic Glass Studio, Norway, Professional residency, NO, Feb. 2015

University of Washington, Professor exchange program, WA, USA, 2014

Creative Glass Centre of America, Fellowship, NJ, USA, fall 2014

Corning Museum of Glass Studio, Artist in residence, NY, USA, 2014
Bullseye R&E Centre, Artist Exchange Program, residency, Portland, OR, USA, 2013
New Mexico, Professional residency (invited), NM, USA, 2012
Masterclass with James Carpenter, Bornholm, DK, 2012
Northlands Glass Centre, Professional residency (invited), Scotland, 2011
Pilchuck residency, Emerging Artist in Residence, WA, USA, 2009
One-month artist residency in New York (Ministry of Culture, Slovenia), Dec. 2008
Creative Glass Centre of America, Fellowship, NJ, USA, 2001
Workshop with Judy Hill, Jacksonville, FL, USA, 1999
Pilchuck Scholarship, WA, USA, 1999
Chevening scholarship, GB, 1995
Valvasor – Chevening scholarship, GB and SI, 1994

Solo Exhibitions / selected

Surfaces of Transparencies, Fine Art Visconti Gallery, Ljubljana, SI, 2025
The Memory of the Imprint / There and not Entirely There, Glass atrium City Hall, Ljubljana, SI, 2024
Tanja Pak, Design Center, presentation, Filipov dvorec, Ljubljana, SI, 2023
Rêveries / There, Križevniška church, Ljubljana Festival, Ljubljana, SI, 2022
Passages, Small Kos Gallery, Ljubljana, SI, 2021
Mid-Breath, Velenje Art Gallery, SI, 2021
Tanja Pak, artist in residence / Maradiva Resort & Spa, Mauritius, 2019
Breath in Between, TR3 Gallery, Ljubljana, SI, 2018
The Tales of a Breath, Glass Atrium at Ljubljana City Hall, Ljubljana, SI, 2018
Paths, Atelje galerija, Ljubljana, SI, 2017
Tanja Pak, Brands&Signs, Month of Design, Ljubljana, SI, 2017
InBetweennes, Kresija Gallery, Ljubljana, SI, 2015–2016
A Walk in a Desert, Atelje Galerija, Ljubljana, SI, 2013
Within / I held my breath, but the world kept on dreaming, multimedia installation, Ljubljana' Castle, SI, 2011–2012
Pointé, glass installation, Ljubljana Castle, SI, 2011–2012
Dreaming Away, multimedia installation, Ljubljana Castle, SI, 2010–2011
The Moment Atfer-Alina, multimedia installation, Ljubljana Castle, SI, 2010–2011
Flow, Red Dot 2009, Glesia Gallery, Ljubljana, SI, 2009
Tanja Pak, Sculptures, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, FR, 2009
Lara, Red Dot 2008, Glesia Gallery, Ljubljana, SI, 2008 *Undula9ons.*
Again, Glesia Gallery, Ljubljana, SI, 2006
Traces, St. Vit, Dravograd, KGLU Slovenj Gradec, SI, 2004 *Red and Black*, Marjan Lovšin Gallery, Ljubljana, SI, 2003
Searchings, Miklova Hiša Gallery, Ribnica, SI, 1999
Whisperings, Ljubljana Castle, Ljubljana, SI, 1998

Group Exhibitions / selected

Venice Glass Week 2025, Hub / Palazzo Loredan, Benetke, IT, 2025
Expo 2025, (with Spirit agency, Slovenia) Osaka, Japan, 2025
Experience of Glass / Dolenjski muzej, Novo mesto, SI, 2025
Venice Glass Week Hub 2024, Palazzo Loredan, Venice, IT, 2024

Toyama International Glass Exhibition, Toyama, JP, 2024
Connections / Glass Art Society members' exhibition, Berlin, D, 2024
The Ice Furnace, Venice Glass Week, Castello Gallery, Venice, IT, 2023
Dry River Bed / collaborative performance project with Michael Rogers and Inguna Audere, SI, 2023
Interconnective/collaborative performance project with Michael Rogers and Inguna Audere, Švicarija, SI, 2023, Venice Glass Week Hub 2022, Palazzo Loredan, Venice, IT, 2022
Collect 2022, London, GB, 2022
European Glass Context 2021, Denmark, 2021
Venice Glass Week Hub 2021, Palazzo Loredan, Venice, IT, 2021
Arte Laguna Prize 2020 and 2021, Arsenale, Venice, IT, 2021
Made in Slovenia (with Museum of Architecture and Design, Slovenia), Paris Design Week, Paris, 2021
Tunnel 29, Milan Design Fair 2020 (with Museum of Architecture and Design, Slovenia), Milan, IT, 2021
Made in (with Museum of Architecture and Design, Slovenia), Vienna, A, 2021
Collect 2021, London (with Joanna Bird gallery), London, 2021
Tunnel 29, MAD, Ljubljana, SI, 2020
Collect 2020, London, GB, 2020
Beauty and the Beast, Legnice in Lodz, PL, 2020
Beauty and the Beast, Wroclaw, PL, 2019
Venice Glass Week Hub, Palazzo Loredan, Venice, IT, 2019
Arte Laguna Prize 2019, Arsenale, Venice, IT, 2019
Slovenian Creativity, with Slovenian National Museum, Xi'an Museum, China, 2019
45th International Invitational, Habatat Gallery, Michigan, MI, USA, 2017
International Glass Kanazawa, JP, 2016
International Glass Symposium, Glass Museum, Novy Bor, CZ, 2015
Vitraria Glass +A Museum, opening exhibition, Venice, IT, 2014
Design+, Month of Design, Ljubljana, SI, 2014
Bullseye Project, Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, WI, USA
Chroma Culture, Bullseye Gallery, Portland, OR, USA, 2013
Inspired by Nature, Hempel Glass Museum, DK, 2013
Hot Glass, CAA, London, UK, 2013
Silent Revolutions - Contemporary Design in Slovenia, Moscow, RU, 2013 / Helsinki, FI, 2012 / Tent Gallery, London, UK, 2011 / Eindhoven, NL, 2011
Glass in Context 2012, Bornholm Art Museum, DK, 2012
Coincidencies II / Exhibition of Slovenian artists, Galerija Murska Sobota, SI, 2012
Month of Design - All Awards Design, Ljubljana, SI, 2011
Modern Art in Slovenia, European Central Bank, Frankfurt, DE, 2011
AllAwardsDesign, Zavod Big, Viba, Ljubljana, SI, 2010
Talents 2010, Ambiente, Frankfurt Messe, Frankfurt, DE, 2010
Rotovž, Lemberg, with Mirsad Begić, SI, 2009
Red Dot 2009, Red Dot Design Museum, Essen, DE, 2009
RedDot.si, Mestni muzej Ljubljana, SI, 2008
Red Dot 2008, Red Dot Design Museum, Essen, DE, 2008
Glass in Context 2008, Bornholm Art Museum, DK, 2008
CGCA Fellowship Alumni, Museum of American Glass, NJ, USA, 2007
20th Biennial of Industrial Design, Ljubljana, SI, 2006
Installations on the Grass, Kogl, Velika Nedelja, SI, 2005
19th Biennial of Industrial Design, Ljubljana, SI, 2004
20/20 Vision, Creative Glass Centre of America, NJ, USA, 2003
LuxEuropae2002, Copenhagen, DK, 2002
18th Biennial of Industrial Design, Ljubljana, SI, 2002
Contemporary Glass Exhibition, China Millennium Museum in Beijing, CN, 2001
Contemporary Glass Exhibition, Shanghai Museum of Fine Art, CN, 2001
29th International Glass Invitational, Habatat Galleries, PonOac, MI, USA, 2001
17th Biennial of Industrial Design, Ljubljana, SI, 2000
A Gathering of Glass, Sable V Fine Art Gallery, Wimberley, TX, USA, 1999

Glass Art Society Expo International II, Tampa, FL, USA, 1999
Expo '98, Lisbon, PT, 1998
Design from Slovenia, Rokus, Ljubljana, SI, 1997
Centenary Degree Show, Royal College of Art, London, UK, 1996
Celebrating Slovenia, Liberty's, London, UK, 1993

Permanent, Public Installations and Collections

Reveries, Toyama Glass Museum, JP, 2024
Private collection, Poland, 2023
Eden od / One of, permanent collection of Velenje Gallery, 2022
Boats II, permanent collection Anin Dvor, Rogaška Slatina, 2022
Fluid II – complete renovation and reinstallation of original seeing, Multimedia Installation, Ljubljana Castle, Ljubljana, SI, 2022
InBetweenness, private collection An Daneels, Brussels, B, 2020-2022
Breath, Lah Art Foundation, Ljubljana, SI, 2018
Flow, Academy of Fine Arts and Design art collection, SI, 2018
Whiteness, RIKO collection, SI, 2017
Reveries / From Here, Centre of Poetry Tomaž Šalamun, Ljubljana, SI, 2016
Breathing - I, private collection, Ljubljana, SI, 2016
Breathing, IGS, Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, CZ, 2016
In My World, European Central Bank, Frankfurt, DE, 2011
A Fountain, public installation, Laško Spa, Laško, SI, 2009–2011
A Chandelier, 365 Glass Drops, public installation, Laško Spa, Laško, SI, 2008
Design works, National Museum of Slovenia, glass collection
Boats, BTC Headquarters, Ljubljana, SI, 2007
Fluctuations - to the Soča River, Kobarid Public Library, Kobarid, SI, 2002
Trees, Nova Ljubljanska Banka's Art Collection, Ljubljana, SI, 2001
Fluid, Multimedia Installation, Ljubljana Castle, Ljubljana, SI, 1999

