

About the book **Mid-Breath, Tanja Pak**

By Zdravko Duša

Recently published artistic book titled **Mid-Breath** accompanied the eponymous exhibition in Velenje and brings the impressive story of artist Tanja Pak, who as a child was emersed in the magical atmosphere of crystal design in Rogaška Slatina, the centre of Slovenia's glass industry. Since then, she had been developing her fascination through her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana and an MA at the Royal College of Arts in London. Her resulting opus has been exhibited around the globe and she succeeded in changing her environment's sensibility when it comes to perception of the aesthetic value of glass, while also achieving a landmark shift at the national Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana as founder and head of glass and ceramics department. – Images and texts featured in **Mid-Breath** are, in the words of poet and art historian Miklavž Komelj, "areas with obscured boundaries, where things are hardly discerned; with her work she tries to achieve the denial of everything definable in order to point to something beyond – and at the same time here." The titular **Mid-Breath** is an attempt at the most extreme approximation to this, a state "between", limited with being and not being. This and similar extremes are extrapolated and brought closer by the author through personal notes and photographic documentation stemming from real, longitudinally and meteorologically just as extreme experience. " The essence of wind, darkness, whiteness ... And the blurring boundaries between one and the other, when there is no more Here and There, but only Between." (Tanja Pak)