



CLARTÉS

Clartés Company Presents

Of Glass and Men

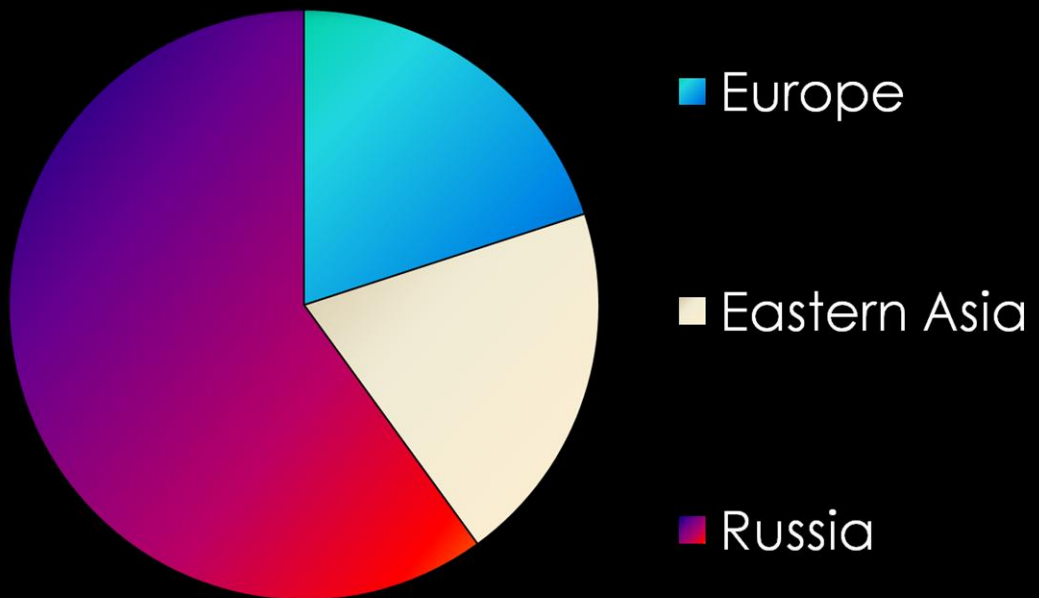
Strong Presence

Originally a Czech company based in Prague with its manufacturing facilities in the North of the country, Clartés sought partnerships abroad, chiefly in Russia and China, soon after its foundation. Presently our well established network of partners and distributors is set to benefit from even further growth with partnerships in Austria and Brazil.



Markets

When taking into account the small size of the Czech market and Clartés' production capacity, it should come as no surprise that the majority of its products are exported; in recent years, the Russian market has emerged as its principal trade partner. However, Clartés' strategy has consistently focused on keeping a balanced portfolio in order to ensure its smooth and steady growth.



Bohemian Tradition

The production of decorative glass has been a tradition in Northern Bohemia for more than 600 hundred years. During this long time period the craftsmen of the region have thoroughly mastered all the necessary skills and aspects of chandelier making. Clartés is proud to say that it employs experts in all areas of chandelier making. Moreover, some of the techniques such as engraving or etching can be applied separately in order to create true pieces of glass art.



Available Techniques

Over the course of centuries, Czech glassmakers have developed many interesting techniques. Approximately 90% of them require skilled hand craftsmanship and, so far, machines have proved unable to replicate them properly. This is why the vast majority of all Clartés products are hand-made.

In the following pages, you will become acquainted with the most commonly applied glass-making techniques and technologies which Clartés presently uses.

Blown Glass

When talking about blown glass, most people imagine vases or glasses. However, blown glass is also used for most Clartés chandeliers, chiefly for their arms. An arm made of blown glass must never exceed more than 1.2 m, since the required thickness for longer lengths are not possible and may cause critical problems later.

Hair, a magnificent chandelier where blown glass technology has been generously applied.



Crackling

As this thoroughly complex technique is difficult to learn, there are only very few experts within the industry that are capable of executing it correctly. An almost finished and hot piece of glass needs to be cooled very quickly within a specific time period. Subsequently, small cracks will appear in its glass structure. However, as this damage is only superficial, it by no means compromises the load bearing capacity and compactness of the glass.

A gold painted chandelier piece where “crackling” was applied .



Glass Sculpturing

Shaping hot glass into a work of art is quite a demanding process. It is not possible either to cut the glass or introduce new glass during this process. If the artist does not have the exact amount needed for the object, he will have to start all over again. Many talented sculptors were born out of the Czech glass-making tradition and Clartés is delighted to have one of them in its team.



Poseidon, a brilliant example of glass sculpturing

Gold and Silver Plating

Gold and silver plating can be used to colour glass and therefore enhance its appearance. However, silver plating can only be used under certain conditions, for this reason the manufacturer must first be consulted, if such a process has been requested.

Drake, a 24 carat
gold plated glass
chandelier



Sandblasting

This well-known technique which is used for decorating glass surfaces is achieved by etching the glass with very fine grains that have been propelled at a high velocity. This causes microscopic cracks to appear in its structure which matt the sandblasted area. As a side-effect, sandblasting invariably creates a three-dimensional effect.

Sandblasted
roses



Etching

Yet another possibility for treating glass surfaces. This time, the glass is bathed in hydrofluoric acid - this approach is therefore purely chemical. If any areas of the surface need to maintain their transparency, foils or other materials are used to shield these areas from the acid. Chemical etching allows for a wide range of possibilities, such as varying the depth (deep etching) and colour/transparency of the treated glass. The maximum size of a piece of glass which is to be treated with this process may vary according to the type of chemical used and for this reason our staff must be consulted to establish its dimension limits.



Deep chemical etching, Czech Republic

Egraving

Older than the glass-making profession itself, engraving has been a flourishing vocation for millennia, yet it was not until 1609 that the Kingdom of Bohemia (today the Czech Republic) became enchanted by its magic. Ever since that time, engraving techniques have been part of the Czech glass-making industry and tradition.



Sea Fauna



Swordfish

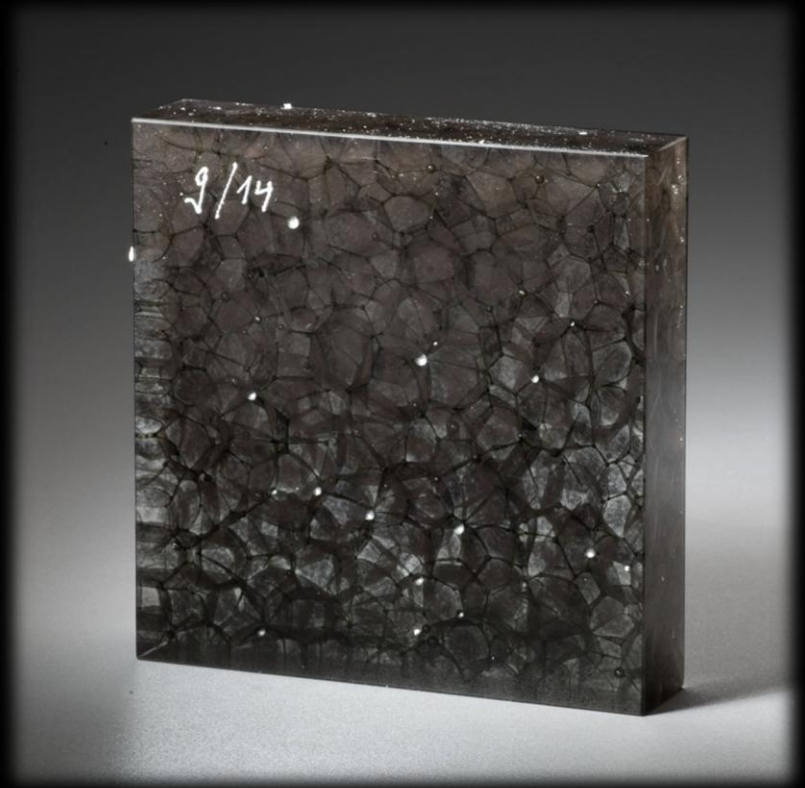


Time Machine

VitruCell

This new and unique type of glass with a honeycomb-like structure, which was developed by Czech glassmakers, integrates traditional processes and modern technology in order to satisfy the ambitious demands of architects and designers. Despite its fragile look, this brand new type of glass complies with all safety parameters of standard glass. Finally, the aesthetics of this marvellous material can be further enhanced by selecting a variety of possible colours and structure patterns. Should you require more information about these options, please contact our staff.

An impressive
structure opening
impressive
possibilities



Glass Floors, Stairs, Railings or Doors

Because of the vast scope of Clartés' expertise, we feel it necessary to remind our customers of our full range of possibilities on offer. They are often unexpectedly surprised when they find out that all the previously mentioned glass objects can be further augmented with other glass surface treatments such as engraving, sandblasting or etching or by using special types of glass as you will see below.

A detail of a glass railing decorated by using etching.



Smart Glass – Privacy Glass

Privacy glass is a type of Smartglass (also sometimes called eglass) which is widely used in interiors, primarily as a space divider within a room. The appearance of this electrically powered privacy glass can alternate between transparent and translucent (making it impossible to see through), by simply pressing a remote control button; it can, therefore, provide privacy for everyone either outside or inside the delineated area. Finally, This type of glass can, for instance, also be treated with an engraving.

Smart Glass – Self Illuminating Glass

Yet another type of Smartglass, this self illuminating glass, is composed of a layer consisting of a net of very small led diodes which is placed between two sheets of glass. When switched on, the led diodes illuminate the entire glass surface; due to its diffusive quality, it gives the impression that the glass itself is emitting light.

Bulletproof Glass

The Clartés company supplies high-quality bulletproof glass which is always tested and certified in compliance with the EU standards. This type of glass can also be decorated using various techniques; however, some of them will reduce its resistance to bullet impacts. Therefore, any additional treatment to this type of glass needs to be thoroughly consulted with Clartés in order to ensure that our customer is fully aware of any reduction in its effectiveness.



Projects



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CLARTÉS

Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Shanghai



Materials: Stainless steel, small pieces of cut glass

Small pieces of glass are hung on a ring made of stainless steel wire

Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Shanghai



Materials: Stainless steel, small twisted glass rods

Twisted glass rods are hung on a rectangular structure made of stainless steel.

Conrad Hotel, Hong Kong



Materials: Brass, blown glass, colour champagne

The colour of champagne is extremely difficult to achieve and maintain, due to the 90cm length of the chandeliers' blown glass arms.

Kempinski Hotel, Shenzhen



Materials: Stainless steel, blown glass

Red tubes made of blown glass are housed in a hedgehog-like stainless steel structure. In this way “a bush on fire” effect is achieved.

Langham Hotel, London



Materials: Stainless steel, brass

Modern structures made exclusively of metals.

Fortum & Maison Restaurant, London



Materials: Brass, glass rods

A typical example in the Art Nouveau style. Transparent glass rods are hung on a polished brass structure.

“Tommy D” Lounge Bar, Moscow



Materials: Stainless steel, cut glass

A Classic use of cut glass pieces.

Dream Theatre, Orenburg



Materials: Brass, trimmings, blown glass

The main structure of the chandelier is made of brass which suspends its trimmings and blown glass balls.

Municipal Theatre, Haarlem



Materials: Brass, glass trimming

Glass trimmings are hung on a brass construction. A classic piece of art from the previous century.

Crystal Serenity, Crystal Cruises



Materials: Glass, fabric, stainless steel hangers

Hanging on a stainless steel structure, this object which is made of fabric is highlighted by its glass structures.

Private Yacht, France



Materials: Stainless steel, Swarovski Strass trimmings

Swarovski Strass trimmings are hung on a stainless steel structure.

Private Residence , Hong Kong



Materials: Stainless steel, blown glass

Coloured blown glass pieces are hung on a stainless steel structure creating a flame-effect.

Private Residence , Moscow



Materials: Stainless steel, cast glass

A sculpture of 2 x 3 m made of 5 separate glass parts that were assembled on site. The entire sculpture weighs more than 1 ton and is hung on a stainless steel structure.

Private Residence, Shanghai



Materials: Brass, glass rods

This huge structure (3 x 6 m) made of glass rods is hung on a brass structure.

Private Residence, Moscow



Materials: Glass

The technique of etching was applied in order to achieve an impression of lightness.

Private Residence Detail, Moscow



Materials: Glass

The technique of etching was applied in order to achieve an impression of lightness.

Private Residence, France



Materials: Glass

Cast glass decorative pieces.

Private Residence, France



Materials: Glass

Blown glass decorative pieces.

Private Residence Kopernik



Materials: Glass, nickel

Glass trimmings hung on a metal structure.

Private Residence Kopernik



Materials: Glass, nickel

Blown glass is hung on a metal structure.