

CHARLES BURNAND GALLERY

Charles Burnand Gallery Presents *Another Excuse*
An Solo Exhibition of Sculpture and Light by Fredrik Nielsen
13th May – 28th June 2024



Charles Burnand Gallery presents *Another Excuse*, a solo exhibition of work by Swedish artist Fredrik Nielsen curated by the gallery's founder, Simon Stewart, and on view in London from May 13th to June 28th. The works on view showcase Nielsen's singular approach to glass sculpture, presenting several works that represent new directions for his practice.

Evolving from a previous collaboration with the gallery, the title *Another Excuse* reflects an artistic exploration ignited by Nielsen's 2023 visit to the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. The title symbolises both a 'reason' and an 'excuse' for art – taking inspiration from the past and offering creation anew.

Widely recognized for his groundbreaking work in glass, Nielsen's raw, abstract expressions represent a transformative direction for the medium. Nielsen's artistry is a symphony of controlled chaos. His blown and cast glass sculptures are layered, distorted, and visually capture the kinetic energy poured into their making. He applies molten glass from heated coloured glass rods, blurring the line between painting and sculpting, often incorporating unconventional materials such as automotive paint. Each piece is cyclically cooled and reheated over weeks, the phasing adding depth and narrative. While some works offer depth of view into their cyclical layering, others such as "You're A Hideous Thing Inside" are coated entirely in metalised glass highlighting the abstracted form and texture of the work instead.

"Nielsen's relentlessly unconventional approach to one of the oldest forms of craft holds exciting new directions for the medium," says Stewart. "We are delighted to present works that exemplify the evolution of his own artistic language, particularly as he experiments with new, more conceptual materials such as neon light. Highlighting the tension between light and depth, and what is tangible or intangible, adds layers of interest and curiosity to already dynamic forms."

The hero work on view, '*Another Excuse*' introduces neon light into the presentation and the audience's perception of the work. Nielsen draws inspiration from the vibrancy and introduction of this material, injecting new dimensions into his sculptures. The relationship and tension between glass and light is highlighted in these works - the color of the neon both illuminating and giving shape to glass form, and passing through as an intangible, ephemeral intervention.

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“My process is like that of a scientist, and my work is like an excavation,” says Nielsen. “I am always searching, pushing forward towards the unknown. The individual works in this show represent several explorations that allow me to think about glass in new ways and inspire me to continue searching.”

Following Neilsen’s unconventional approach to glassmaking, the exhibition’s installation offers a layered and visually rich context to view the work. Within the gallery, the walls are graffitied in neon pink with Nielsen’s phone number - a personal reference that has been repeated and evolved throughout his practice. This approach is rooted in authenticity. The phone number is immediate; in a literal sense a direct line to the artist and his work. In a conceptual sense, these personal and pop culture references evolve beyond themselves into symbols, references, and iconography open for interpretation.

Another Excuse is on view at Charles Burnand Gallery in London from May 13th to June 28th with an opening reception and ‘in-conversation’ with Fredrik Nielsen taking place 13th May 6pm – 9pm.

About Charles Burnand Gallery

Founded by Simon Stewart, Charles Burnand Gallery is an internationally renowned gallery representing established and emerging designers and artists. Located in London's Fitzrovia Design District, the gallery draws an international clientele seeking one-of-a-kind and editioned collectable designs and studio artworks from a diverse roster of talent. The gallery honors fine craftsmanship while emphasizing the use of sustainable materials and production techniques. Charles Burnand Gallery maintains dynamic programming throughout the year, ranging from thematic and solo shows and selling exhibitions. The gallery regularly exhibits at globally recognised art and design fairs including Design Miami/, Salon Art + Design, Collect Art Fair and London Design Festival. Represented talent boasts international recognition from the LOEWE Foundation Craft Prize, in addition to acquisitions from institutions such as the Vitra Museum and countries as far reaching as France, Sweden and the United States. In an effort to champion local emerging talents, the gallery also hosts an annual showcase for promising Masters graduate students at the Royal College of Art.

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