

MILA ZILA

Where soul meets shape



MILA ZILA studio

Ľudmila Žilková is a visual artist and glass designer based in Northern Bohemia. My primary medium is glass – a material that captures light, shapes space, and constantly transforms depending on the angle of view. In recent years, I have been intensely focused on hand-blown glass, where traditional craftsmanship meets experimentation and a continuous search for new forms of expression.

I see glass as a living material—it is meant to be understood, not controlled. It breathes, responds to its surroundings, follows the rhythm of light, and is pulled by gravity. Each piece is the result of an intuitive process, where the energy of hands, the power of fire, the material, and the idea behind it come together. I work with the tension between the material itself and the form we assign to it, between stability and constant transformation, to create works that not only shape space but also the way we perceive it.

My approach reflects a deep respect for craftsmanship passed down through generations. I believe in the value of precise detail and local, sustainable production that preserves the soul of the material and the stories of those who shape it. My work does not follow trends—it focuses on depth, timelessness, and an authentic dialogue between space, material, light, and the human experience.

I shape light, capture movement, and work with scale to create works that are not only seen but experienced with all senses.

PROJECT PERSONA

Persona embodies a vision for the future of making — one that resists mass production and repetition, proposing instead unique objects that honor the nature of materials while bearing the trace of the maker's hand.

Glass has always been a material of transformation, arising from elemental forces, fragile yet enduring, a paradox shaped by human hands. In the Persona series, hand-blown glass is explored as an ancient medium reimaged for new futures.

Tradition here is not fixed but fluid, reinterpreted to address contemporary questions of identity, authenticity, and the role of objects in human experience. Centuries of Bohemian glassmaking are carried forward not as static memory but as a living practice, evolving through design.

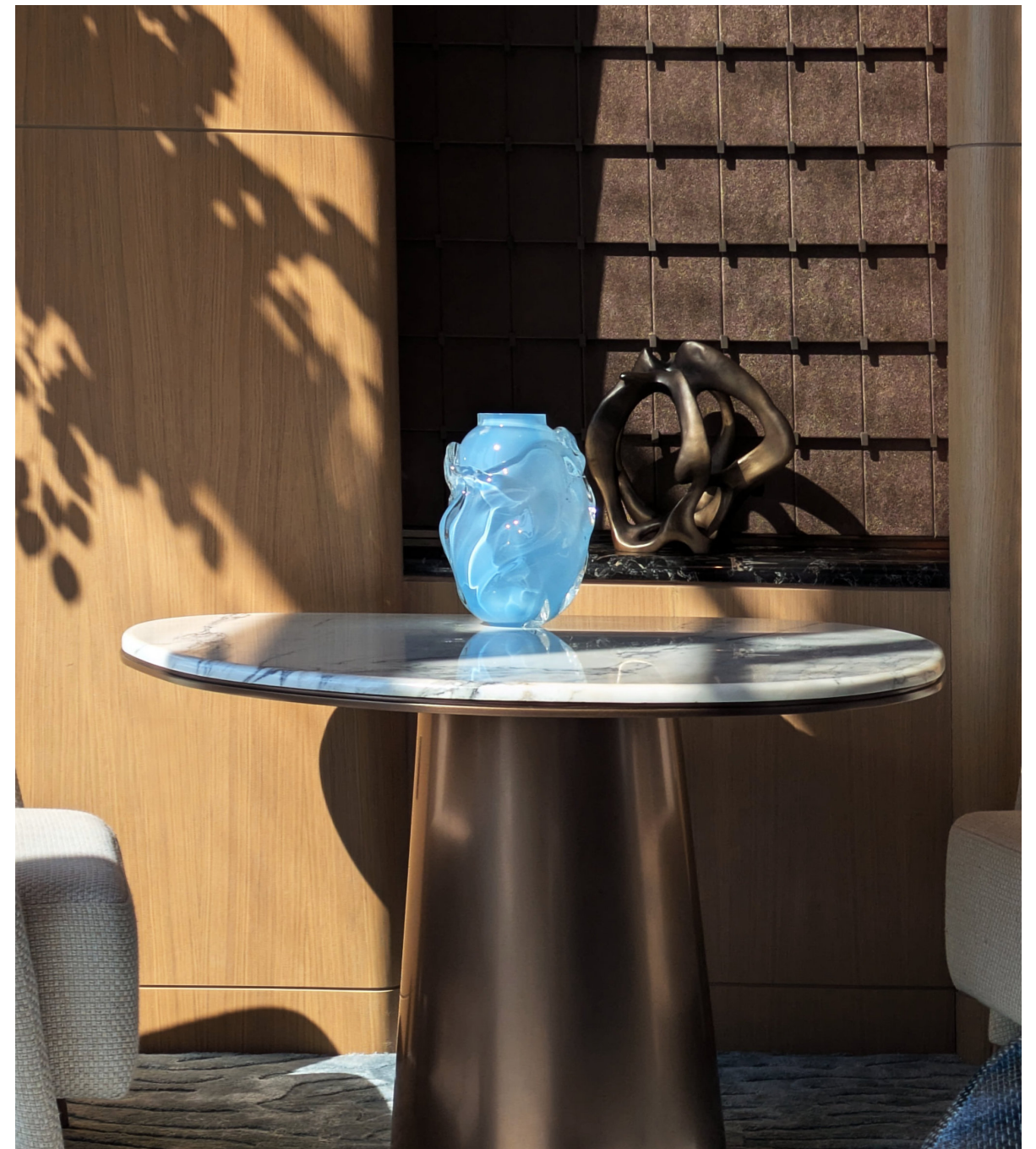




PERSONA

Each vase and person is **UNIQUE**

Producing identical copies of the same regularly shaped vase versus creating individual objects by letting the hot glass shape itself irregularly in its own natural way and only assisting in the process while respecting the characteristics of the material. Just as human personality that can either (try to) fit into a predesigned role and play a predefined character or grow **FREELY** and instinctively layer by layer into an **AUTHENTIC** being.

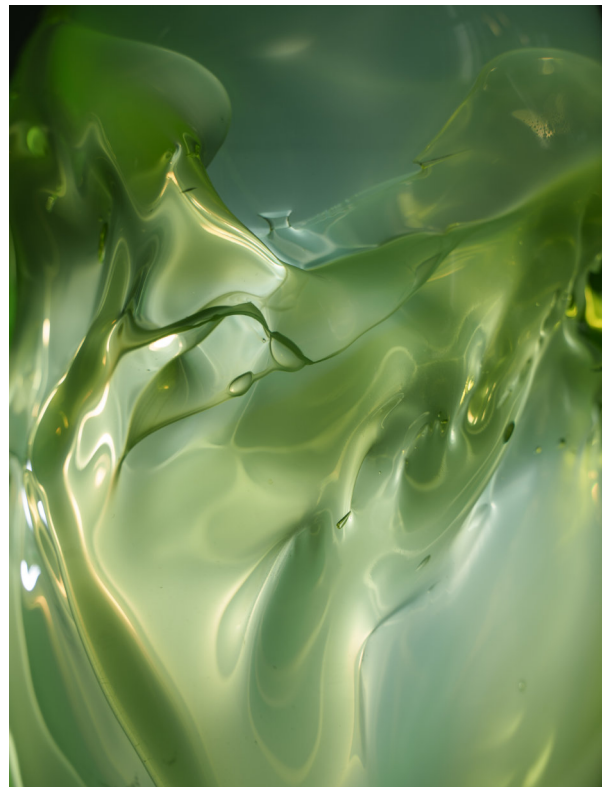


PERSONA URANIUM

Uranium glass has a history reaching back to ancient Rome, where it appeared in mosaics containing small traces of uranium oxide. Over the centuries, it became treasured for its luminous quality, transforming glass into a glowing substance with green-yellow radiance.

In the PERSONA uranium sculptural vases, the material becomes a voice, revealing the flow of molten glass and highlighting the clarity of elemental form.

The use of uranium glass opens a dialogue between history and experiment, between material tradition and its unexpected futures.

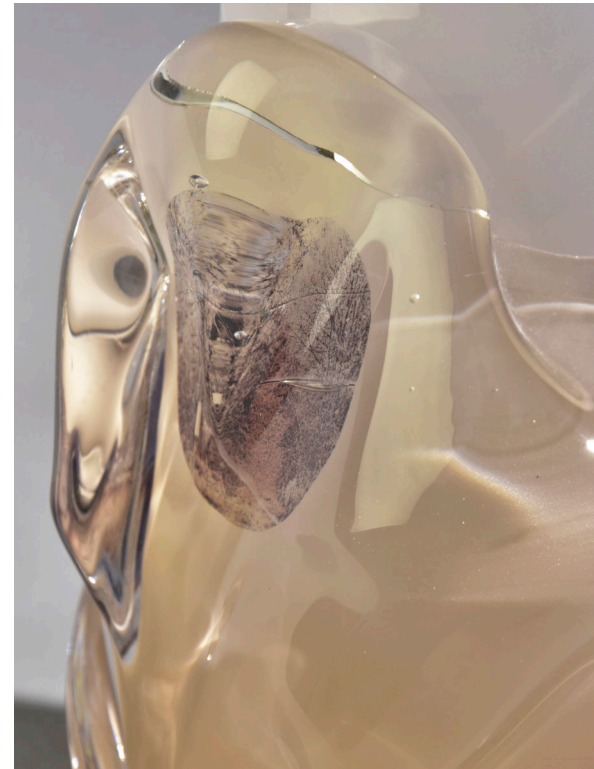




PERSONA PHOTOGRAPHY

More than ten years ago, I first explored the fusion of photography and glass in my Master's Diploma project, using images of street art from Bratislava.

In this series, photographs of the path between a bus stop and my father's home — a route walked daily by his family — are embedded between layers of hand-blown glass. The countryside views, bridging past and future, are transformed into sculptural forms, continuing the PERSONA project's dialogue between material, memory, and experimentation.





PERSONA

Medium & Small Vases

The experiments with material, form, and small-series production culminate in the medium and small vases, now part of the regular PERSONA collection.

They realise a vision for future-making in which the material itself guides the form, and each object, while sharing a common language, bears subtle variations that make every piece unique. These vases bring the exploration of process and material into everyday settings, translating conceptual experiments into functional yet singular objects.







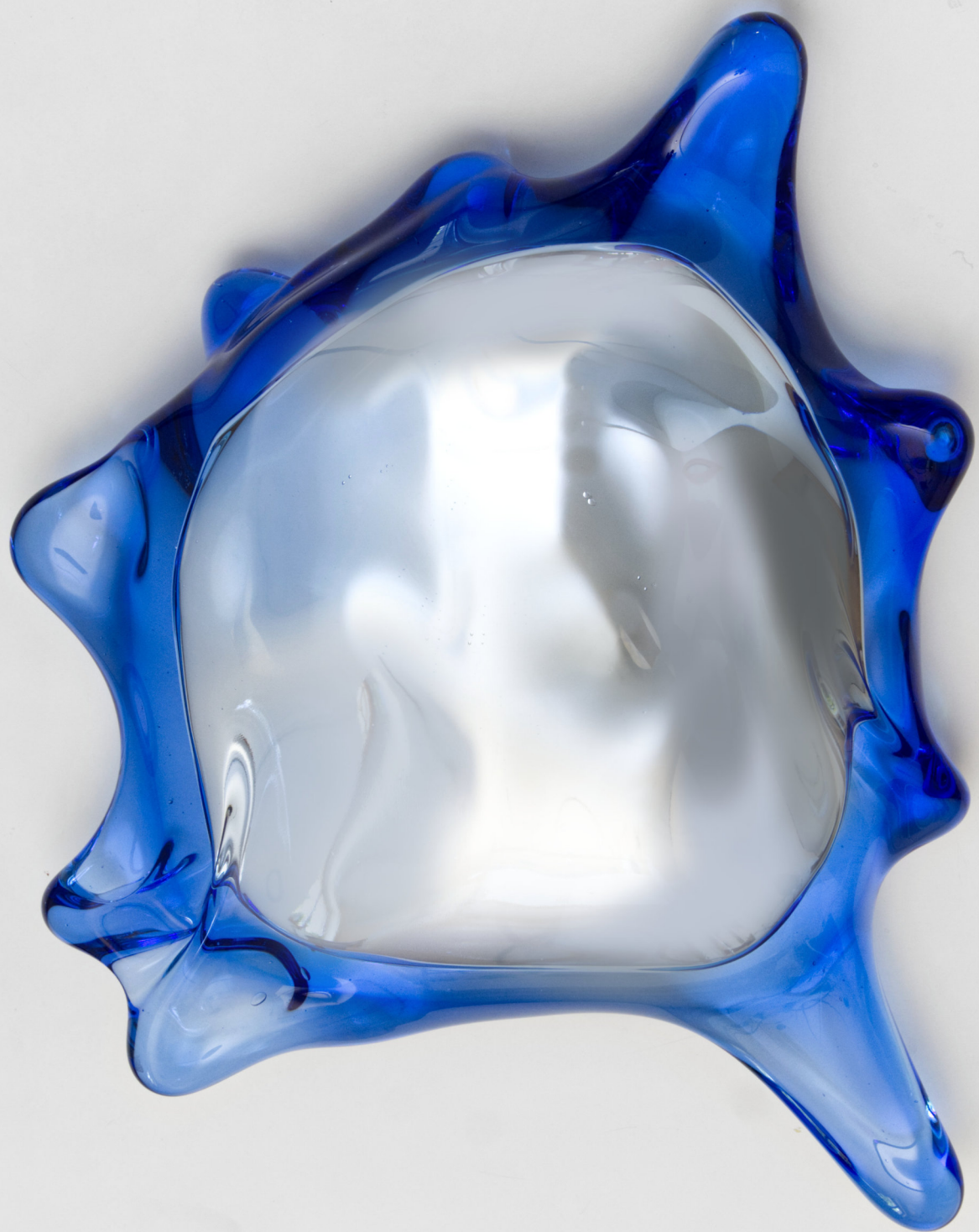


PERSONA MIRROR OBJECTS

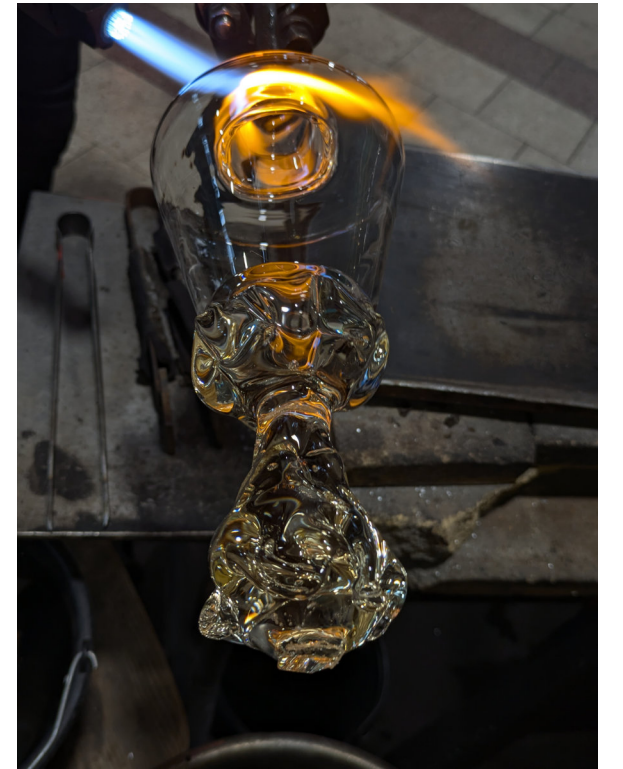
The PERSONA mirrors are created through a process in which molten glass is spun, shaped by both gravity and deliberate gestures, guided by vision and intuition. The motion forms layers that capture the dialogue between material and making, preserving traces of each piece's emergence.

These mirrors serve as instruments of introspection, reflecting complexity, depth, and the subtle interplay of intention and transformation, continuing the PERSONA project's exploration of material, process, and the evolving relationship between object and experience.









The PERSONA glasses continue the exploration of material, form, and transformation that runs through the series. Borrowing shapes from familiar, everyday objects, they start as recognisable forms but are reimagined through the properties of hand-blown glass.

By adding layers of freely shaped glass, each piece shifts beyond its original function, taking on new presence and meaning. The interplay between the familiar form and the material's fluidity highlights how perception changes when ordinary shapes are transposed into a sculptural, experimental context.



PERSONA SCULPTURES

They continue the exploration of material, form, and process that defines the series, moving beyond functional objects into a sculptural language of their own. These works exist as experiments in glass, giving form to ideas, gestures, and the inherent properties of the material.

Through hand-blown and manipulated layers, the sculptures reveal movement, texture, and volume in ways that everyday objects cannot. They expand the language of PERSONA, inviting reflection on how glass can inhabit space, interact with light, and transform perception beyond function.





MIND COLLECTION

The MIND collection reflects on the human ability to process information, form memories, and create new perspectives. Each object captures how small details shape our perception and emotions, revealing how meaning can emerge from subtle shifts in form.

Rooted in a simple, everyday shape inspired by the can, the series reimagines this familiar form through changes in proportion, material, and detail — a bend, an overflow, a gentle irregularity. These variations highlight the dialogue between control and chance, encouraging us to notice the nuances that often remain unseen.







DEW DROPS

Drawing inspiration from the delicate balance between liquid and solid, a defining characteristic of working with hand-blown glass, this series captures the quiet tension of a drop resting on a blade of grass, or a drop of glass resting on the blowing pipe. Each piece reflects the natural form in which liquids gather, preserving the moment before it disappears.

Available in three sizes — L, M, and S — the pieces are designed to complement one another, creating gentle variations within a balanced composition.







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