



Glass Society Lecture

Thomas Moser

Vitreous Waves: Émile Gallé's Oceanic Glasswork Between Art and Aquaristics

Thursday 21st April, 7pm at the Art Workers Guild and on Zoom

In the years around 1900, the artists of the École de Nancy elevated glass art to an entirely new level. Among the high-quality works, one object stands out: the so-called *Main aux algues et aux coquillages*. In Émile Gallé's showcase *Les fonds de la mer* at the 1904 exhibition of decorative arts in Nancy, objects with aquatic motifs turned the showcase itself into an aquarium. Gallé's glass hand, in its symbolic, material, and sensual ambiguity, became a quasi-scientific object.

The lecture places Gallé's poetic 'testament artistique' against the backdrop of scientific and public

aquaria. Like the depths of the sea, the enigmatic glass work could only be adequately examined and understood in an experimental setup that was also made of glass; the gaze on art was thus equal to the scientifically informed gaze into aquaria.



Thomas Moser is Universitätsassistent and lecturer at the Vienna University of Technology, and received his PhD in Art History at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. He has held fellowships and research posts in Paris, Hamburg and more recently at the Witt Warburg Institute in London.

TO BOOK: We are resuming physical meetings at the Art Workers Guild, London, and also on Zoom. Please contact David Willars at gsocfinancial@gmail.com, saying how you wish to attend. Please note, places are limited.

At the Art Workers Guild, 6 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AT*, we will meet in the upstairs Gradidge Room for refreshments from 6.30pm (note 7pm start time).

Please let us know the number of people coming.

(*Nearest Underground stations: Russell Square or Holborn).

If joining on Zoom (still free), you will be sent details of how to join the meeting before the 21st April.

Next Meetings: 9th June (on Zoom), 30th June (at the Art Workers Guild and on Zoom)