

Specimens from an Imaginary Voyage

Steffen Dam (born 1961)

2017, glass

An artist of international acclaim, Steffen Dam has worked with glass for more than 30 years.

On the one hand his work is exciting, meticulous, pre-planned and precise to a tenth of a millimetre. On the other, Dam embraces chance and works with the inherent properties of glass to achieve incredible beauty through imperfection. He introduces bubbles and flecks of dirt, usually forbidden in glass blowing, which can either be stunning or catastrophic!

Dam has taken inspiration from RAMM's collection of starfish and sea urchins in Sladen's Study. His glass jars contain imaginary sea forms made from glass that trick the viewer to believe they were once alive.

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Steffen Dam

An artist of international acclaim, Dam has works in museums and galleries all over the world. He has worked with glass for more than 30 years.

Dam's early works take the form of flat panels. They are like the illustrations in the natural history books that his grandfather introduced him to as a child.

Later, he learned to cast glass, opening up many new possibilities. He created marine life jars with delicately coloured sea forms suspended in frozen animation apparently within a glass cylinder.

His works seem to show natural forms captured between glass. But this is an illusion of reality. The glass plants and creatures are not scientific replicas of anything found in nature. They come from Dam's own biological universe.