

Manolo Valdés In Glass

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Manolo Valdés In Glass is a stunning coffee table compendium of the artist's latest sculptures, made using molten glass.

Preceded by informative notes on the history of glass artistry that place its own works in wider context, this catalog of multimedia artist Manolo Valdés's latest sculpture series is a visual delight. Some of the pieces were made to welcome light, using its rays toward self-invigoration; others are impenetrable, like the obsidian head, embellished with gold, surface scratches, and wood pieces, that opens the collection.

There are expressionless quartz-evocative faces whose gazes stand to unnerve their observers, and orange-hued mouths that bleed out from hard, dark surfaces. Translucent butterflies dance around wire-ringed visages; piercing eyes, rendered more as absences than additions, draw the onlooker's attention. Some pieces are embellished in ways that evoke Mondrian; still others are earthier, their power primordial and breath-catching. Parades of cobalt, bronze, and found materials round the assemblage out.

Glossy and arresting, *Manolo Valdés In Glass* is a gallery of modern sculptural delights.

MICHELLE ANNE SCHINGLER (September / October 2022)

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