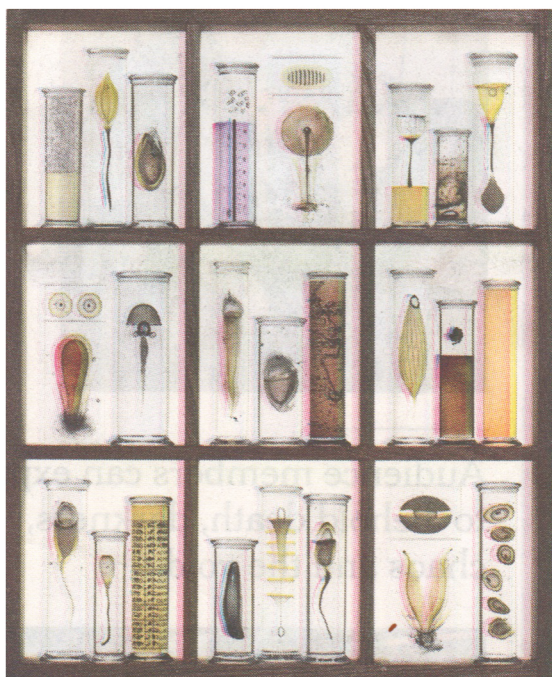


Arena

HIGHLIGHTS FROM TMAGAZINE.COM

COURTESY OF STEFFEN DAM (STEFFEN DAM'S ART); PAUL QUITORIANO (ROSIE ASSOULIN'S MEAL); MARI MAEDA AND YUJI OBOSHI (PARTY SHOES)



ART MATTERS

Glass Master

Steffen Dam has spent the morning chopping firewood and picking his crop of raspberries. “It’s busy in the countryside,” says the Danish glassmaker, whose life in the rural enclave of Handrup is punctuated by the dual demands of the garden — and the furnace. “I could probably be more productive,” he says of his work. “But suddenly, the weather is good and I’ll have to down tools and go to plant trees.”

For nearly 20 years, Mr. Dam has worked from his home studio in an old 1930s village schoolhouse, slowly and very deliberately mastering the art of glass. His complex creations, which are contemporary reimaginings of the cabinets of curi-

osity that became popular in 16th-century Europe, are made in solitude, save for the steady presence of his wife, a fellow glassmaker, Micha Karlsland. “Glass is a very seductive material,” he says.

Natural science is the lodestar of Mr. Dam’s fantastical creations: As a child he immersed himself in zoology and botany books his grandfather had. This tendency toward classification still drives Mr. Dam, who is a finalist for Loewe’s forthcoming craft prize. Translucent creatures, often from his own otherworldly imaginings, are seemingly caught in stasis inside transparent glass cells, cylinders and cabinets.

AIMEE FARRELL