

Through May 14. Heller Gallery, 303 10th Avenue, Manhattan. 212-414-4014;
hellergallery.com.



“Cross Head” (1988), a cast-glass sculpture by the Czech artists Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová. Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová; Heller Gallery

When the midday sun floods the windows of the Heller Gallery in Manhattan, the 19 pieces of cast glass by the Czech artists Stanislav Libensky and Jaroslava Brychtova illuminate the room like a medieval chapel. That's no accident. Works by the internationally acclaimed couple — [Libensky died in 2002](#), [Brychtova in 2020](#) — include windows for St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague, and an extraordinary tiny chapel in the Czech town of Horsovsky Tyn. Applying their talents to what had long been the province of goblets and chandeliers, they explored glass as a sculptural medium, teasing out its secrets of light and color.

The exhibition showcases such gems as “Tall Head,” a foot-high casting with a reverse-relief head encased in its folds. Its color shades from amber to burgundy, varying with the light and the thickness of the glass. Heads were a common theme for the couple: With “Cross Head,” a brutally angular piece in orange, inner voids make the light play with the thickness and polished surface of the glass, while “T-Head,” a 400-pound half oval of gray-green glass, is inspired by bronze Hellenic helmets in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Some of the pieces here are maquettes, small trial versions of what would eventually be castings 3 or 4 feet tall. This includes the exquisite 8 ½-inch high “Arcus III,” a keyhole-shaped piece whose color ranges from sapphire blue to pinkish brown. The artists' use of color creates a vibrant emotional pull: The pastel hue of “Diagonal,” a raspberry-sorbet-colored square arch seems to exude happiness. *PETER S. GREEN*