

CRYSTAL DEPTHS

Mallorca's seabed changed into an underwater gallery for a few days last June. Czech artist Vlastimil Beranek and his team lowered seven heavy Bohemian crystal sculptures onto the sand and watched how the light changed the colours of the sculptures.

Vlastimil Beránek & Crystal Caviar

This page: Chameleon, 45cm diameter. This sculpture is melted from special crystal which changes colour depending on daylight: from pink to emerald green and honey amber.



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First ever underwater exhibition of crystal sculptures

In what was a world's first for Bohemian crystal, an underwater exhibition of renowned artist Vlastimil Beranek's sculptures was organised in Mallorca by newly founded gallery ARTSiO, in collaboration with Crystal Caviar.

Seven heavy glass sculptures, each weighing up to 100 kg, were lowered onto the Mallorcan seabed using boat ropes and winches near Punta Negra. Divers could circle and swim alongside the glass artworks and see how underwater light changes the sculptures and how the sculptures change the lights.

The setting was particularly fitting as Beranek's inspiration often comes from the sea. "I was amazed to see that the clearest sculpture was – for me – the best looking one in the water. I

thought it would disappear in the water but it was the brightest and shiniest of them all," Beranek says.

Vlastimil Beranek is considered one of the masters of Bohemian crystal in the world. He learned his craft from his father, who in his turn received it from his father. Beranek's glass sculptures tend to be substantial pieces, big and heavy, and built so that one can have a 360 degree view of them. They feel like infinity sculptures and are hypnotising pieces of glass which captivate one as you walk (or swim!) around them. His largest piece so far is composed of 15% lead Bohemian ruby crystal and weighs in at 260kg. His molten glass sculptures can be found in museums and private collections all over the world.

ARTSiO was founded in autumn 2016 and is

located in Vlčí Hora in the Czech Republic. It offers 700m2 of exhibition space.

Marek Landa, founder of Crystal Caviar says: "The exhibition was an amazing cooperation between Crystal Caviar with ARTSiO Gallery and Peter Diving Company. It was the first ever exhibition of crystal sculptures on the sea bed and I hope they will soon find a home for a permanent exhibition of Crystal sculptures in the sea."

Underwater photographer and marine biologist Martin Colognoli photographed the event. www.vlastimilberanek.com

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