



ARTĚL

LAUNCHES *FLIGHTS OF FANTASY* COLLECTION BY AMBER COWAN

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC – In today's competitive world, it is more important than ever to remember that, in the words of Helen Keller, "together we can do so much." In that spirit, ARTĚL – the globally renowned producer of luxury crystal – continues its longstanding history of collaborative projects with world-class artists by releasing *FLIGHTS OF FANTASY*, a special collection of handmade glassware designed by American glass artist Amber Cowan.

Best known for her unique approach to creating sculptural works consisting entirely of vintage American industrial pressed glass, Cowan's art has been described by the *New York Times* as "instantly recognizable: lush, collaged tableaux in pastel colors, the glass frozen mid twist and mid drip, perpetually in motion." She is represented by the prestigious Heller Gallery in New York City and her work can be found in the permanent collection of the Museum of Art and Design in New York, the Toledo Museum of Art, and the RISD Museum.

Cowan's many followers include ARTĚL company founder / director Karen Feldman. As it turns out, Cowan is also an avid fan of Feldman's designs for the firm, and this mutual admiration led the two artists to connect over social media. They began corresponding in September 2020, and when Feldman eventually proposed the idea for a collaboration, Cowan readily agreed, resulting in the design and creation of the new *FLIGHTS OF FANTASY* collection.

The collection consists of four motifs designed by Cowan and painstakingly handcrafted by ARTĚL's team of Czech artisans, which can be purchased either as a set or individually. Each motif will be exclusively available in two shapes – Double Old Fashioned and Small Tumbler – and a single vibrant color, as described below:

- *BUTTERFLIES FEAST IN THORNY VINES* (Blush)
- *HUMMINGBIRDS FEAST IN RIBBONS AND PEARLS* (Lilac)
- *DOLPHINS IN SKY WITH PEARLS* (Azure)
- *SNAIL WITH MUSHROOMS AND PEARLS* (Peridot)

"Of the many collaborations we've done over the years," says Feldman, "this project with Amber has been not only one of the easiest, but also the most fun! Although we started with little more than a shared curiosity about how her artistic style might translate to functional glassware, the collection actually came together surprisingly quickly – and it's both fanciful and fabulous! It's also important to note that Amber was committed from the outset to the idea of *not* offering the collection as a limited edition, in order to make it accessible to a wider audience. I'm quite certain that the collection will appeal to ARTĚL fans as well as to Amber's many collectors and followers."

Describing the pieces she designed for this collection, Cowan says she wanted each motif to be "active and animated," so that whether the depicted subject is "crawling, flying, or swimming across the surface of the glass, it will feel *alive* in the user's hand." She adds that she "couldn't be happier" with how the collection developed, and that she's been using her samples nonstop since receiving them: "Now that I have them on my shelf, they're always the first glasses I reach for! I'm so excited for others to be able to use and enjoy these pieces as much as I have."

Established in 1998 by American designer and entrepreneur Karen Feldman, ARTĚL specializes in handcrafted, functional crystal glassware of high design. The company takes its name from an early-20th-century collective of Czech artisans whose dedication to preserving the traditional methods of handcraftsmanship led them to reject industrial production techniques. ARTĚL carries on the spirit of these artisans and their commitment to producing – entirely by hand – lasting objects of impeccable quality, design, and functionality. ARTĚL's award-winning glassware has been exhibited by the Cooper-Hewitt Museum and is in the permanent collection of the Corning Museum of Glass. Available for purchase at ARTĚL's Prague boutique and exclusive retailers including Asprey, Gump's, and Scully & Scully; online shopping is available via www.artelglass.com and home design websites including Abask, Artedona, and Chairish.

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