

'Recollect' brings lost treasures back into the open.

By Teleri Lloyd-Jones

A cabinet of curiosities

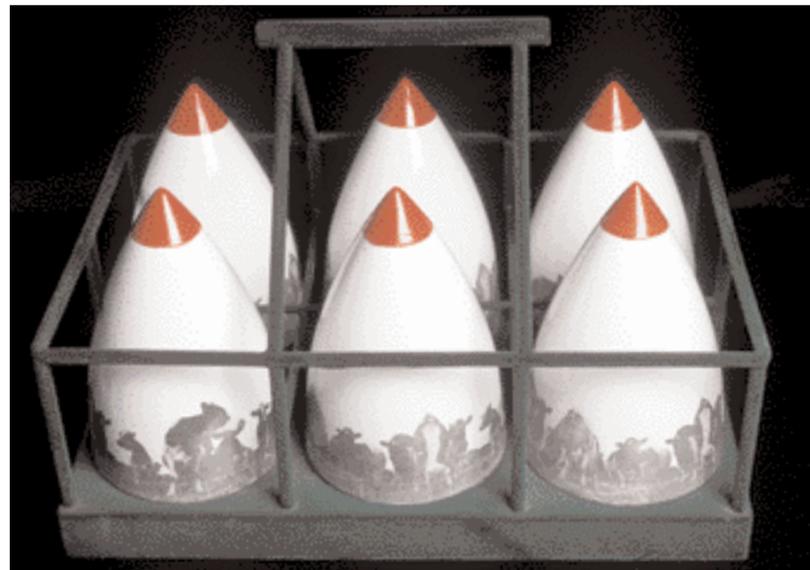
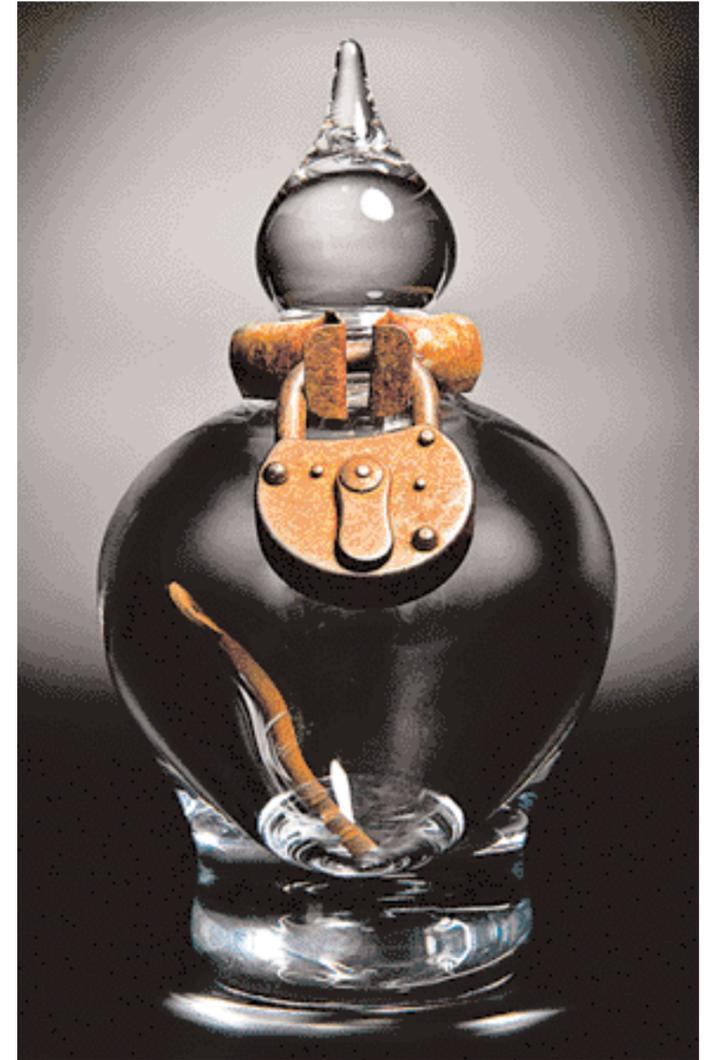
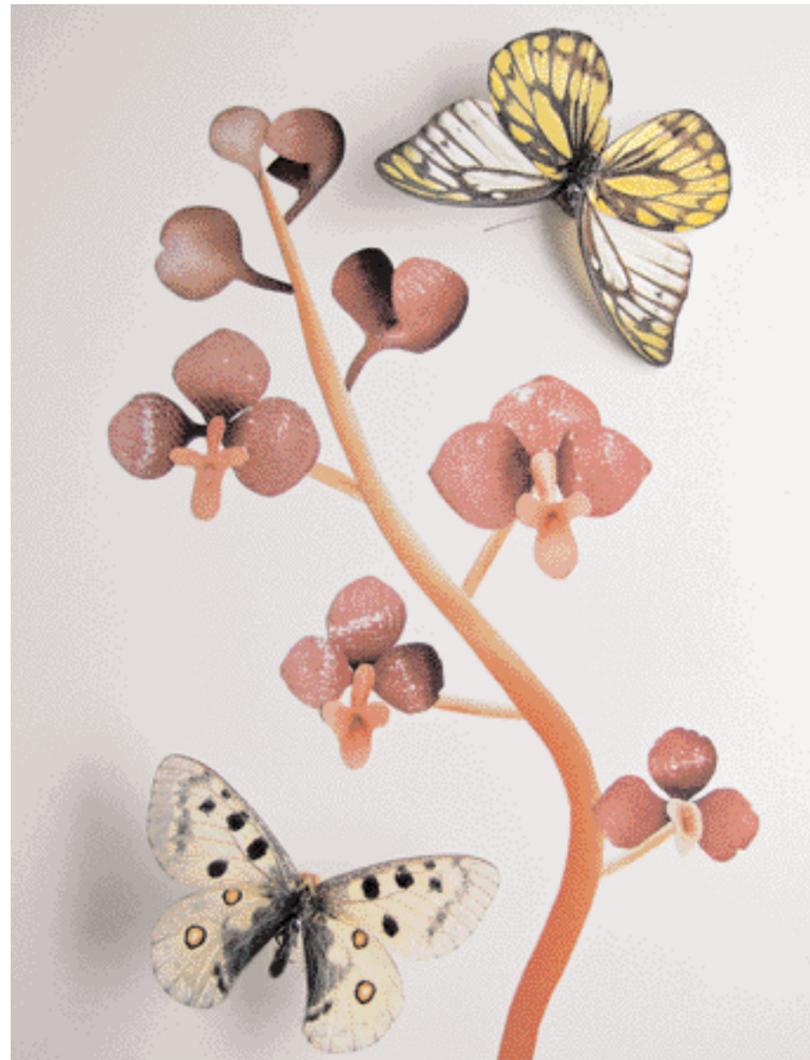
As he visited makers' studios over the years, glass artist Matt Durran began to see the importance of the odd one out: the experiment or personal treasure kept behind and integrated into the studio's everyday environment. In its second year, and now encompassing four venues and over 40 participants, *Recollect* this May brings such peripheral or private works to the public. As Durran says, "There's lost work out there. It's important to re-identify it."

Recollect was created last year by Durran and Max Jacquard. Its theme is the cabinet of curiosities, or *wunderkammer*, with mysterious or unseen work by the likes of Tord Boontje, Andrew Logan and this year's guest co-curator Emma Woffenden. With two group shows and two solo shows – for Richard Wheater and the duo Jon Lewis and Yuki Kokai – the key elements are freedom and re-evaluation. 'I think people get very precious over their own ideas,' says Durran. 'Very well curated shows can sometimes be a little academic. Here the artists can have a bit of fun.' There is talk of Wheater bringing homing pigeons from Yorkshire to be released on the first night, to 'recollect' their way home.

But *Recollect* is also for collectors. It's a selling show, and given the lost work's special significance and narratives it's hoped there's a special value for those interested in a particular artist. Durran also wants to tempt and engage a new audience: 'There's a concern where the next generation of collectors are coming from,' he says. 'It's something to address, and we feel quite strongly about it, bringing the collectors in.' The future looks bright for *Recollect*, with talk of more than 10 venues next year broadening the range beyond London. Its organisers are hoping other curators and makers will take the model and create satellite shows under its aegis. In the spirit of *Recollect*, Durran explains: 'We want it to run off and have its own life.'

Glass Art Gallery at London Glassblowing, from 12-19 May; Burgh House and Hampstead Museum, from 12-16 May; the Space at the Lotus Studio, from 10-17 May; Koukan Gallery, from 5-16 May. For details, see *Crafts Guide*. www.recollectexhibition.org

Clockwise from right: *The Perfumed Garden of Sensual Delight*, Ruth Harrison; *Picking Daisies*, Layne Rowe; *Fragile Identity*, Bruce Marks; *Burning Bush*, Eelko Moorer; *Wakizashi*, Anthony Scala; *Six Pack*, Peter Layton



Homing pigeons from Yorkshire will be released, to 'recollect' their way home