



Yuriy Byakov
(1938–2000)

GLORY TO LABOR! Vase

About the project

<https://tsaritsyno-museum.ru/events/special/p/lyudi-i-fondy-eng/>

Leningrad Art Glass Factory, USSR
1977

Crystal glass, mat cut





SELECTED BY

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at the Exhibition Department



During my work at the Tsaritsyno Museum-Reserve, I helped to organize exhibitions displaying glass objects and fine examples of arts and crafts from time to time. Each time during the work process, I had a strange feeling when watching the objects transform in the exhibition space. To fully reveal the beauty of a glass piece of art, you need to place and illuminate it correctly.

To capture the artistic image created by the artist, the object should be raised to the right height and the rays of the museum lamps should be directed at it in a certain way to create a feeling of harmony between the material and the decor.

Setting light for an exhibition with glass objects is a necessary skill of an exposition designer. I enjoyed this greatly. Of course, I also had my favorite items. The vase 'Glory to Labor!' made by Yuriy Byakov is one of many.

Member of the Artists' Union of the USSR, participant and winner of national and international exhibitions, Yuriy Byakov belonged to the renowned constellation of Soviet glass carvers. He was born in Ulan-Ude, but his life was tied to Leningrad. He studied at the Leningrad Art School named after V.A. Serov (since 1992 Saint Petersburg Art School named after N.K. Roerich) and at the Leningrad Higher School of Art and Industry named after V.I. Mukhina (now Saint Petersburg Stieglitz State Academy of Art and Design).

For many years, Byakov worked as deputy chief artist of the Leningrad Art Glass Plant. During his career, he created many pieces of art for mass production, but of course, Yuriy Byakov is known for his signature artworks, held in many museums. His favourite material was colourless crystal, his favourite technique was carving and engraving, and his favourite form was a vase or a goblet.

The affinity for architectural thinking was a prominent feature of the Leningrad school of applied art, to which the artist belonged. His skill as a sketcher was manifested in full force in the decorative design of his works. The artistic image of the vase 'Glory to Labor!' is a tribute to the spirit of the time. Graphics of the drawing, laconic form, the theme of heroic labor, all this is in line with the spirit of the era.