

ONE MONTH ONE ARTIST

Eric BONTE

born in 1956 in Paris, France

*I believe that art allows us to touch with our finger the best in man,
whatever civilization he belongs to or claims.
Art remains a universal language.- Eric Bonte*



Eric Bonte in his workshop ©Claude Bonte

Eric Bonte discovered the technique of stained glass during his studies at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Appliqués et des Métiers d'Art, Olivier de Serres in Paris.

In 1979, he took over a glassmaker's workshop, which was the means to combine professional experience with a creative adventure.

It was a question of giving himself the means, to create, to express himself to exist through his art.

In 1987, he was entrusted with the realization of the stained glass windows of the Basilica of Yamoussoukro in Ivory Coast: 8,400 m² of stained glass windows, three and a half times the surface area of the stained glass windows of Chartres Cathedral.

He created France Vitrail International for this colossal project.

In September 1999, Eric Bonte was awarded the Grand Prix départemental des Métiers d'Art by the Sema.

He has always mixed the activity of a master glassmaker with the more intimate and personal activity of a sculptor.

SELECTIONS OF DOMES, CEILINGS AND GLASSWARE

- Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast: 8,400 m² of traditional stained glass windows and a dome 40 m in diameter.
- Mövenpick Pretty City Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt: two domes of 5 m diameter and a ceiling of 45 m x 8 m
- Stained glass windows of the Great Mosque of Sultan Qaboos in Muscat, Oman: inaugurated in 2001
- Hôtel Raphael Paris: ceiling of the library lounge
- Brasserie Mollard: one of the oldest breweries in Paris, interior glass roof and exterior marquee
- Ladurée Paris, rue Bonaparte: stained glass, engraved mirrors
- Biondini Paris, Champs-Élysées: the carved glass dome

ERIC BONTE TALKS ABOUT HIS WORK

Through his sculptures, Eric Bonte seeks to express an emotion, to give form to beauty.

He thermoforms the glass, creating moulds to guide the glass during its transformation. The volume of glass that comes out of the furnace is the fruit of the artist's will but also of chance.

The creative process then consists in appropriating this volume of glass: letting oneself be guided by the material but expressing through it, through the work of engraving, assembly, patina, the feelings felt during its discovery and transformation. It is necessary to play with the constraints, to tame them, so that emotion, wonder and love of beauty emerge.

In some of his works, golden touches are essential, to underline a movement, to insist on a line, or on the contrary to make it disappear, like a line of light.

Gold is a raw material that comes from the earth's core, he uses it as a material in its own right. Gold shines differently depending on the angle of view, like glass, it is a material of reflections.



*Floating cloud - thermoformed glass, sandblasted sculpture, golden patina and patinated metal pedestal
68 x 38 x 20 cm - © Eric Bonte*



Gold hurricane

Thermoformed glass,
golden patina and metal
base with patina
47 x 37 x 10 cm
© Eric Bonte



Efflorescence

Thermoformed glass with
sandblasted sculpture and
patinated metal base
71 x 24 x 15 cm
© Eric Bonte



Awareness

Thermoformed black glass,
sandblasted sculpture, gold
patinated metal
134 x 84 x 22 cm
© Eric Bonte

You can find this selection of artworks by **Eric Bonte** during his exhibition at the **Liuli China Museum in Shanghai** from **April 24th to November 31st, 2019** as well as other works on our website, by **clicking [here](#)**.

THE MAN BEHIND THE ARTSIT

Eric Bonte often works at night, listening to music. He appreciates the silence of the night, which allows him to hear his own inner music!

He has great admiration for Leonardo da Vinci, for his talent as a painter and his engineering genius, for his infinite curiosity and his power of invention.

Voltaire and Montaigne are also among his references: both love Life, are curious to discover the world and try to understand it without preconceived ideas



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