

L'Atelier du Val

By Christophe Genard





Cristal Discovery

VAL SAINT LAMBERT

Birth of the project

« Keep the fire alive »

With this crowdfunding campaign, the goal is to raise money to buy a glassfurnace and so to blow glass again in the VSL place. We have here the opportunity to save the glassblowing activity in Val Saint Lambert with one of the Belgium's last glassblowers, **Christophe Genard**.



Since 2013 and the last bankruptcy of the factory, Cristal Discovery (the touristic attraction in VSL) has no more demonstration place anymore. The reopening of a glassblowing studio is a symbol, this is where magic happens, this is where the visitor can watch the material being transformed by the glass master.

In 2010, Cristal Discovery had about 17.000 visitors per year. In 2015 we only had 3.000 visitors without demonstration

The aim is to recreate the combination between the glass museum and the demonstration. In collaboration with “Immoval SA” (the company which is in charge of the development of the place with the project “Cristal Park” www.cristalpark.com) and the famous crystal factory (www.val-saint-lambert.com), I will open my own glassblowing studio in the VSL place.



The studio will be self-managed and turned towards craft and traditional glassblowing. With my partners, the future will be safe and dynamic. The visitors will be able to watch again a glassblowing demonstration in Val Saint Lambert!

Moreover, we would like to create some workshops so the visitors, for instance, would learn the basics of the glass blowing technics and also how to blow his own Christmas ball.

In the future, we will open a glass center focused on the different technics of glass craft : stainglass, fusing, casting, glass beads, etc. An authentic place about the glass traditions.

Why the crowdfunding?

I need you to help me to buy the glass furnace.

I already have different parts of the studio (gloryhole to heat up the pieces and annealers for cooling down the pieces) and also tools but the heart is missing, the glass furnace. This is necessary to melt the glass and to create some fun and original pieces and also to make some awesome demonstrations for the visitors.

If I raise my first goal of *10.000€*, I will be able to buy some crucibles to melt the glass (800 € per piece for 1 year) and some glass compositions (1000€ per ton per month) or some new pipes, moulds or other tools.



Experiences

I learned the basics of the glassblowing work in the VSL Castle, in the demonstration place with local glass masters. In 2006, after the roof of the castle burned, I went to different places to get some new skills with international Glass masters (Turkey, Italy, France, Germany, etc)

In 2009, the demonstration took place in the factory itself, I worked in the industrial place and I learned the factory way of working glass. I worked on different prototypes and new collections with the famous Belgium designer Charles kaisin.

Today, I collaborate with the national Glass museum in Leerdam (Holland) where I met some incredible artists and glass makers. As a freelance, I made some beautiful pieces for Lancôme, L'Oreal and “le Festival de Cannes ” and for some international designers too.



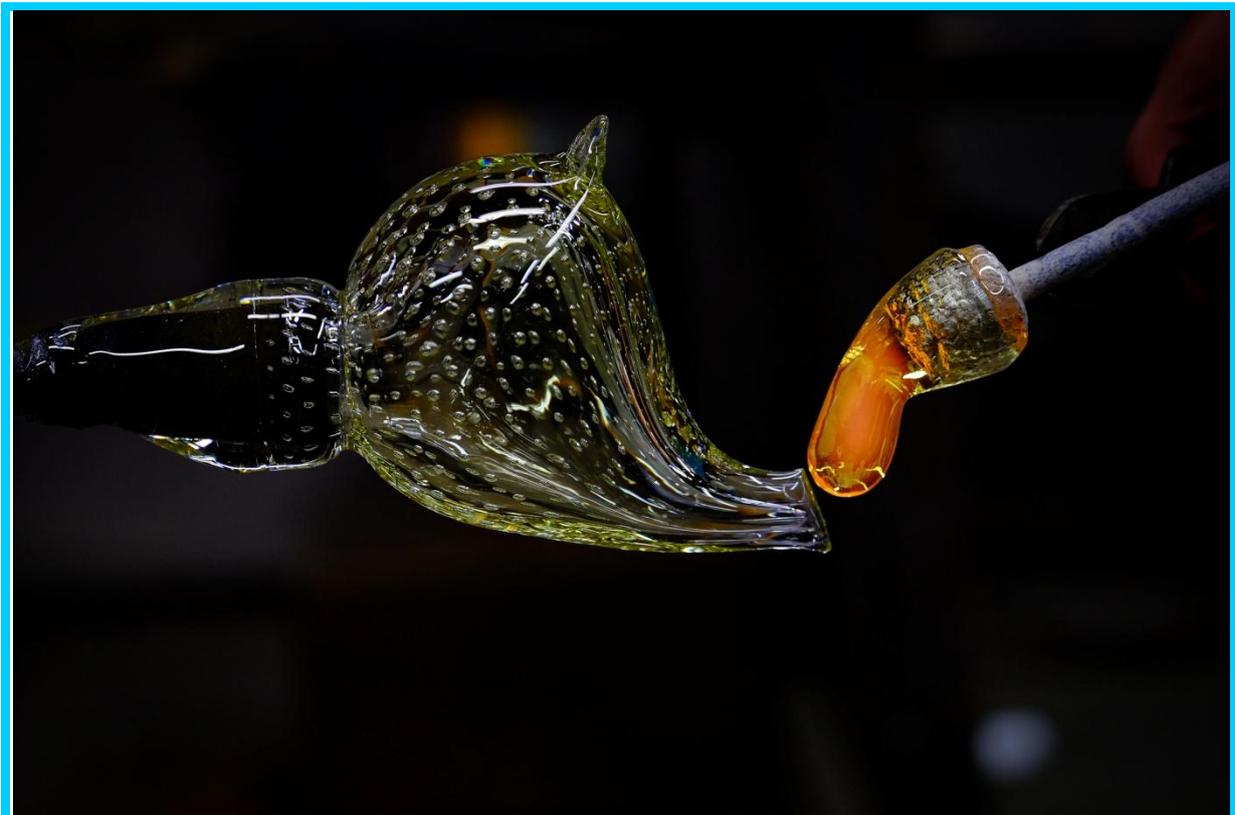
Since 2009, a special collaboration has been created with the designer *Philipp Weber*. Together and following his plans, we created and developed a new pipe with 3 holes, the trumpet pipe. With this trumpet pipe, we created a unique and original collection of glass pieces but also a new concept of blowing glass: “*Strange symphony*”

<http://www.philippweber.org/projects/a-strange-symphony/>

In 2015, we performed *Strange symphony* live at the National Glass Museum in Leerdam – Holland with the famous Cellist *Ernst Reijseger* and the famous glass maker *Emil Kovac*.

Watch the movie here: <https://vimeo.com/142663534>

Thanks to you, in 2016 I will open my own glass blowing studio :
« l’Atelier du Val » by Christophe Genard

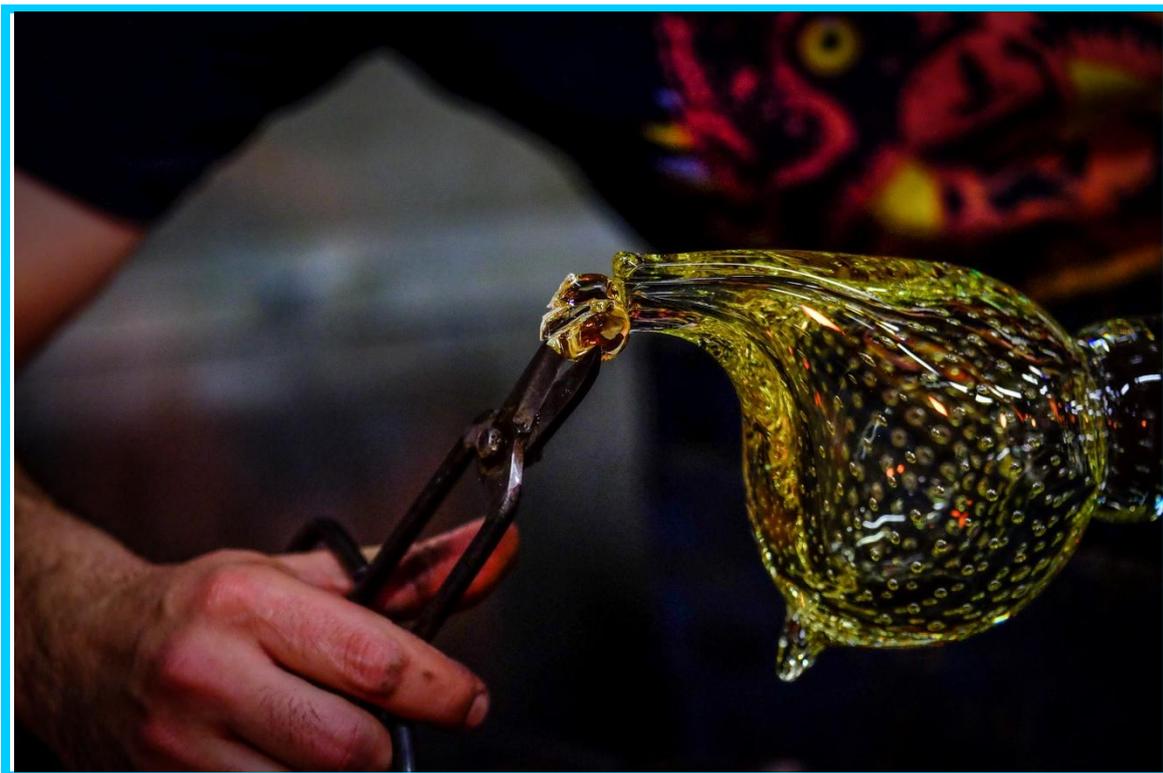


Nowadays, *we need faith to believe in an idea, in a project.* I would like to thank you for your trust and so I suggest you some original and fun rewards. The pieces I am offering are hand-made in my place following the traditional technics. These rewards will be sent to you (extra costs for shipping) or available in my studio within the 6 months following the opening of my studio, the 1st of July!

If you choose to live the experience in the studio, prepare yourself to be addicted to it.

Glassblowing is one of the funniest experience in life!

For every donation, you will have your name written on the « *wall of fame* » in the studio



Rewards

- **5€:** Our eternal gratitude and thank you on Facebook
- **12€ :** 1 entrance ticket for Cristal Discovery (museum and demo) + Thank you
- **30€:** 1 little chicken in blown glass, color can be chosen, signed + Thank you



- **50€:** 1 original chicken in blown glass, color can be chosen, signed + Thank you.



- **100€:** a half day work shop, learning the basics : gathering glass at 1150°C, shaping and blowing some pieces. All the pieces are yours + Thank you

- **180€:** 1 day workshop learning the basics: gathering glass at 1150°C, shaping and blowing some pieces. All the pieces are yours + Thank you
- **500€ :** Unique piece « bouboule » limited production of 5 pieces, signed + thank you



- **750€:** 5 days blowing package, for advanced people. Learning new technics and developing some new skills.
- **1200€:** One amazing and original vase “Strange Symphony” in color, designed by Philipp Weber and blown by myself, signed + Thank You



- **1500€ :** (2 availabilities): your flag at the entrance of “l’Atelier du Val” during 1 year, a real opportunity to be a quality partner in this adventure, 10 chickens color to choose (beautifull and quality present for customers or partners), 10 entrance tickets for Cristal Discovery (museum and demo) + Thank you

Thanks

I really would like to thank you for your support and your help .
Thanks to you, my dream comes true, the fire can be lighted
again!

I would like to thank also my family, my girlfriend, my friends and
partners for believing in me.

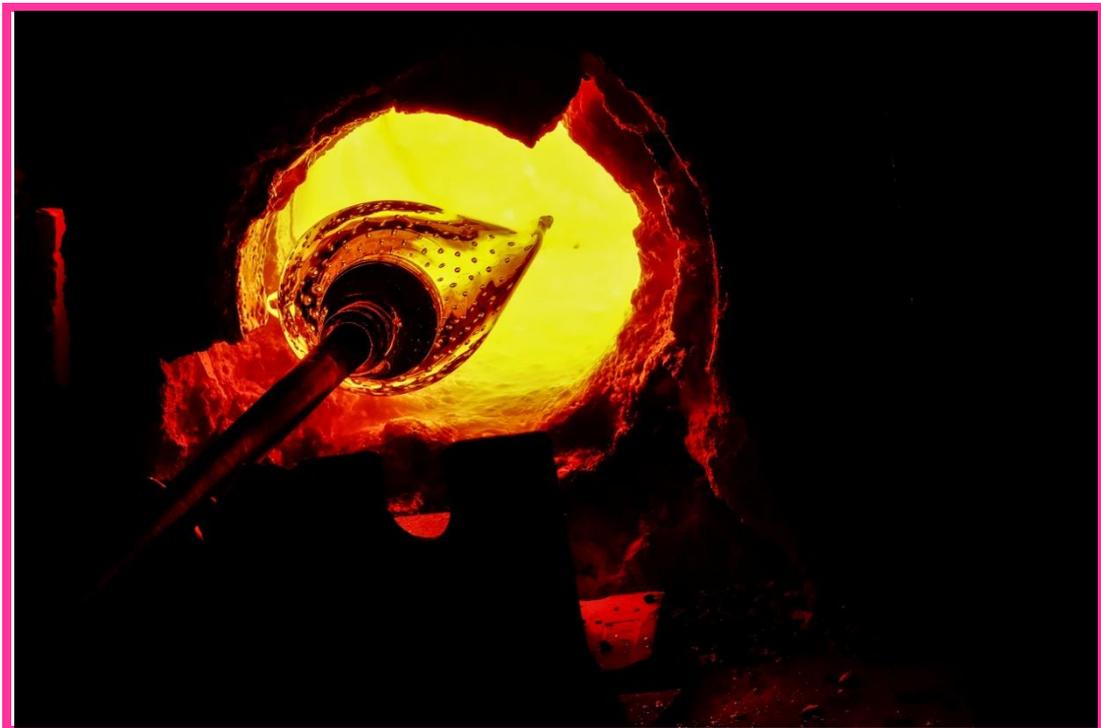
Thank you to Michael and Syssy for the beautifull movie.

So many thanks to the Val saint Lambert lovers because their love
for the place is a real energy for me.

I am sharing this place with you!

And also my glass family, here in Belgium and abroad.

I am really looking forward to make my dream comes true.



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