



ARTĚL

ARTĚL HONORED AT CZECH GRAND DESIGN AWARDS

PRAGUE, MAY 8, 2009—Artěl, the Prague-based manufacturer of stylish luxury crystal, has officially entered the pantheon of Czech design.

For the first time, the company's unique vision has been recognized at this year's prestigious Czech Grand Design awards, which are conferred by the Czech Academy of Design.

Amidst stiff competition from the country's best-known architects and designers, Artěl garnered third place in the Showroom of the Year category and also tied the enduring royalty of Czech crystal, Moser, in the Manufacturer of the Year division.

In recognition of their achievement, Artěl and its founder/owner Karen Feldman are featured in the Czech Grand Design exhibition which, after a run at the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, has moved on to Brno, where it will be shown at the landmark Functionalist Hotel Avion until May 17, 2009.

"We are beyond thrilled with the Czech Grand Design honors," says Feldman. "While the Artěl brand is much better known abroad than here in the Czech Republic, much of our inspiration comes from the local design tradition, so it's great to see that we are being noticed by the Czech design community." And there's no specter of back-room awards politicking here: "Actually, nobody told us we would be featured in the exhibition, so now we're taking a road trip to Brno to see it," she adds with a chuckle.

This latest accomplishment comes on the heels of two other successes for Artěl—the company's inaugural presentation at Designblok '08 and its exclusive limited-edition series of handmade glasses designed by leading contemporary Czech artists, including boldface names like Petr Nikl, František Skála, and Maxim Velčovský. These events, intended to establish Artěl on the Czech design scene, garnered the company another award last year.

Established in 1998, Artěl specializes in functional glassware of high design, combining the traditional standards of luxury glassware with the utility demanded by modern life. The company has two stores in Prague, the flagship in the Old Town and a jewelbox boutique in Malá Strana at the Mandarin Oriental hotel. Both feature a wide range of Artěl designs, as well as an inspired assortment of found objects, antiques, and jewelry. For more information on Artel Glass and Artěl Style, Feldman's irreverent guide to Prague shopping and tourism, visit www.artelglass.com & www.artelshop.com.

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