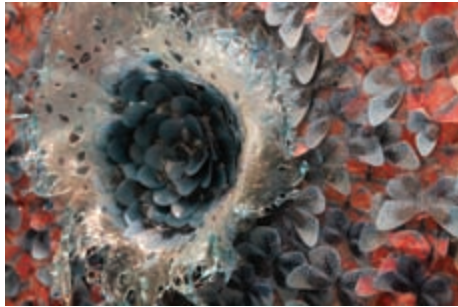


# East West Gallery celebrates grand opening with magical sculptures

By Kathy O'Flinn  
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Exploding books, circling butterflies and an oversize transparent orchid greeted visitors to the grand opening of East West Fine Art on Jan. 13 featuring the work of resin glass artist Annalù who flew in for the occasion from her home in Venice, Italy.

In a process that has taken Annalù 22 years to perfect, she assembles resins, paper, fiberglass and precious metals to create sculptures that burst forth with splashes of water, swirling butterflies and magical motion. The glasslike elements are lighter than glass but share the transparency of glass, fragile in appearance but with an invisible strength from the resin process; they flow like water but are not liquid.



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**In "Taurus" butterflies are constructed with fish scales and water leaps from amidst the swarm.**

"This is the type of art our Naples clients have been asking for – decorative yet sophisticated," said Olga Arkangelskaya, owner of East West Fine Art along with her daughter Leeza who is the new gallery's director.

"My work is a paradox," said Annalù. She works with a liquid to transform it into a solid that

then gives the appearance of a liquid or a body in motion.

In a visit to a Rome library two years ago she came upon a display of ancient books marked with golden arrows.

These were the forbidden books containing sacred knowledge that was only available to a certain few. This provided the germ of an idea for her sculpture "Sagitta." In it a large arrow pierces several books that burst open with spraying water that represents all the escaping knowledge.

"I use all the natural elements, water, fire, air, in



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**Annalù, left, discussing her sculpture "Sagitta" with a visitor at the grand opening.**



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**Annalù describes "Doors of Silence" as a portal to the soul.**

this work. And in the butterflies, "Taurus," I use water, the primary element for life," she said.

A trained artist, Annalù turned to resin glass to create a metamorphosis of disparate elements. Years of experimentation resulted in these unique sculptures, each having its own inspiration.

"We intend to bring to Naples art that is not only meaningful but exciting," said Leeza.

East West Fine Art is located at 2425 Tamiami Trail N. in Naples. 🌊

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