

A stylish celebration of the contemporary vase through the work of more than 150 international designers, from emerging talents to famous names

Vases

250 State-of-the-Art-Designs

Agata Toromanoff

300 Illustrations

18.0 x 18.0cm

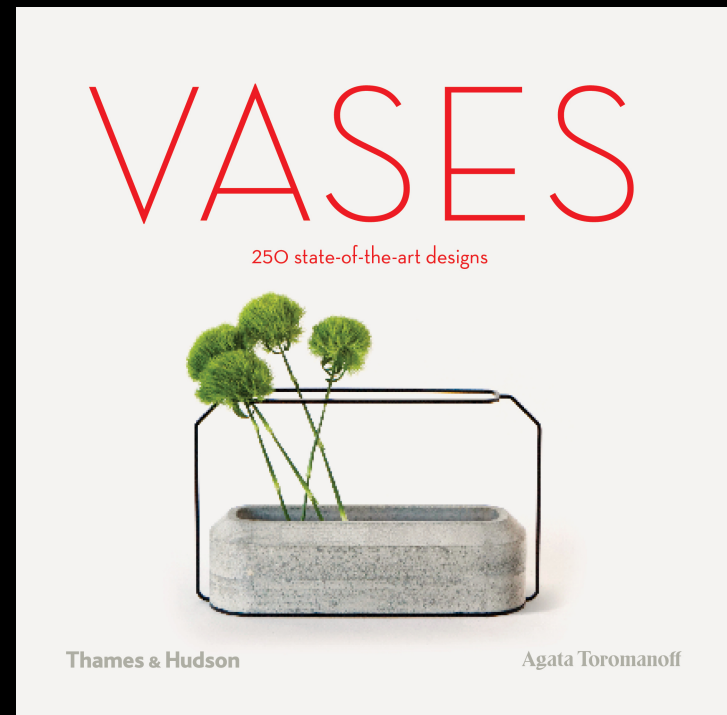
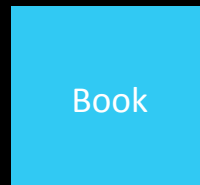
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Key Sales Points

- A companion volume to Agata Toromanoff's previous book *Sofas* (978 0 500 021262)
- Celebrating vases as more than just a beautiful and desirable home accessory, but rather masterpieces of contemporary art and design
- An invaluable sourcebook, with an exciting selection of young and emerging designers alongside famous names such as Alvar Aalto, Ettore Sottsass, Tom Dixon and Zaha Hadid



VASES

250 state-of-the-art designs

 **Thames & Hudson**

Agata Toromanoff

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Introduction

Floral art is having a revival. Ordinary florists' shops are transforming into floral design ateliers where arranging fragrant compositions becomes a high art form. Likewise, the design of vases is blooming. Contemporary designers increasingly push the boundaries of materials and technologies, making vases that are not only functional objects and desirable home accessories, but also important conceptual statements.

The vast range of contemporary vase designs presented here shows that there are no limits to what imaginative designers can make out of what is fundamentally a container for holding flowers. Some of their vases are astonishing displays of modern technical innovation; others explore traditional craft techniques with a contemporary twist, structural distortion or an unexpected pairing of materials. A few even appear to defy gravity. Modern vases are unconventional in every sense, wonderfully diverse in their aesthetic beauty and playful in materials and form.

The history of design includes many significant examples of state-of-the-art vases, but the scope and quality of those that we can admire (and acquire) today is unprecedented. This volume presents iconic 20th- and 21st-century designs from famous names such as Alvar Aalto, Ettore Sottsass, Tom Dixon and Zaha Hadid, but also investigates the contemporary scene with an exciting selection of emerging designers from the younger generation, which has seen a revival of interest in vase design. Inspired by the organic world, architectural elements, sculptural principles or geometry, all these designers translate their original visions into a variety of forms, keen to experiment and to blur the lines between design, art and architecture.

The vases in this book are contemporary works of art, worthy of inclusion in museum collections – and many actually are. As the beautiful images in these pages reveal, modern vases are both significant elements for décor and fascinating design objects.

Opposite:
Tom Dixon • UK
'Tank' vases • 2008

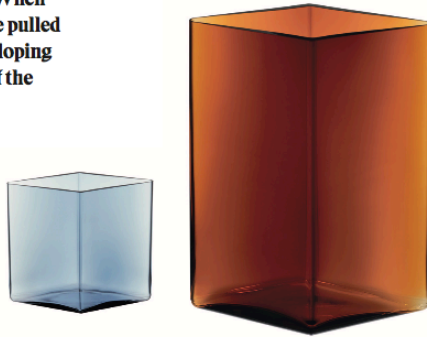
Page 2:
Adrien Rovero • Switzerland
'Sweets' vases • 2015

Preeding pages:
Decha Archjananun for
Thinkk Studio • Thailand
'Weight Vases' for
Specimen Editions • 2011



ORGANIC

'Glass is a material that likes round shapes. When hot it flows like honey and does not like to be pulled into a very precise geometric shape. By developing the strict shape we are reaching the limits of the material' Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec



Brothers **Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec's** collection of mouth-blown glass containers for Finnish firm Ittala juxtapose strong materials and sharp lines with the delicate flowers they hold. 'Ruutu' means diamond or square in Finnish. Available in five different sizes, in a palette of watercolour hues, the modular collection paradoxically explores the nature of glass by forcing it into an unnaturally geometric form.

Left and above:
Ronan and Erwan
Bouroullec • France
'Ruutu' vases
for Ittala • 2014



A vase's surfaces can be geometrically textured to enhance the play of light. While **Patricia Urquiola** applies a quilted, waffle-like pattern, **Vanessa Mitrani** uses bubbles and circles. Urquiola's 'Matelassé' vase for Kartell is made of acrylic glass, which is a high-quality plastic. 'Geometric Circle' for Roche Bobois showcases Mitrani's skilful, creative glassblowing. Regularly applied geometric motifs soften the sturdiness of the material and give the vessel a unique form, enhanced by its rounded, decorative framework.

Above:
Patricia Urquiola
• Spain/Italy
'Matelassé' vases
for Kartell • 2011

Right:
Vanessa Mitrani • France
'Geometric Circle' vases
for Roche Bobois • 2015





Simple shapes and amazing colours are at the core of the 'Hot Spots' series of faceted porcelain vases by **Christine Rathmann** for Rosenthal. The vases change appearance depending on the angle of viewing and the amount of light, and in certain types of lighting almost appear to rotate, as the spectrum-like arrangement of harmonious colour gradations invites the eye to move around the vase. As manufacturer Rosenthal states, 'the vase series is like a dance of colours'.

Christine Rathmann •
Germany
'Hot Spots' vases for
Rosenthal - 2016



Christine Rathmann

Vases / Geometric

The image features three copper-colored, faceted geometric boxes of varying heights and widths, arranged on a white surface. The boxes have sharp, angular edges and a metallic sheen. The background is a light, neutral color, and the lighting creates soft shadows on the surface. A vertical line is visible in the center of the image, possibly a seam or a design element.

ARCHITECTONIC



'I began by busting a lot of vases. After discovering the time-consuming effort of putting the pieces back together, I lined the interior of one with silicone rubber to keep the pieces in place upon impact. I then dipped the vessel into liquid porcelain to fill in the cracks.' Dror Benshetrit

Vases can be as fragile as the flowers they hold and are usually made of easily breakable materials. In an eccentric innovation, **Dror Benshetrit** makes breakage the vase's defining decorative feature. His cracked and shattered porcelain 'Vase of Phases' collection for Rosenthal appears to have been smashed and then glued clumsily back together. **Jakub Berdych's** 'Born Broken' is inspired by errors in glassblowing process. 'Each blown shape is broken into several segments to create a pattern visually akin to cutting', explains manufacturer Lasvit. The elements are reheated together to form a single, watertight vessel with bands of intriguing chips and cracks.

Right:
Jakub Berdych
 • Czech Republic
 'Born Broken' vases
 for Lasvit · 2016

Opposite:
Dror • Israel/UK
 'Vase of Phases' collection
 for Rosenthal · 2005





Front Design • Sweden
'Blow Away Vase'
for Moooi • 2009

A puff of wind can topple a house of cards, but it should not be powerful enough to blow away porcelain. **Front Design** and **Cédric Ragot** have created vase designs that appear to be distorted by the wind. Front's 'Blow Away Vase' for Moooi was created by digitizing a Royal Delft vase, adding new parameters to the material using 3D software, and then exposing it to a simulated gust of wind. Ragot's already iconic 'Hyper Fast' vase similarly distorts the classical vase form in porcelain. The design was originally made in a limited edition for French firm YMER&MALTA, and a larger collection based on this concept was later mass-produced by Rosenthal.

Cédric Ragot • France
'Hyper Fast' vase for
YMER&MALTA • 2003



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