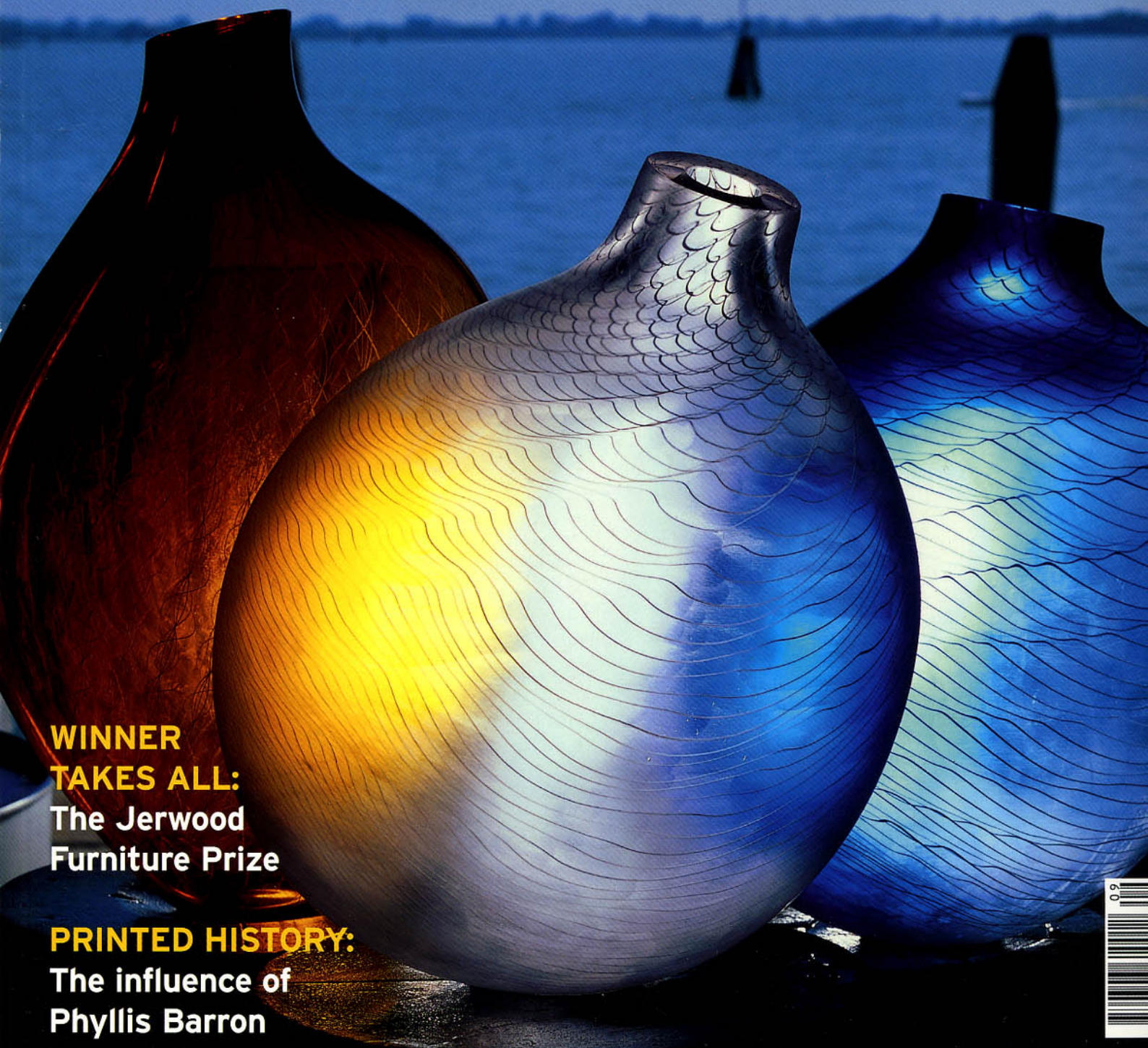


crafts

VENETIAN VESSELS:

New glass designs
for Salviati



**WINNER
TAKES ALL:**
The Jerwood
Furniture Prize

PRINTED HISTORY:
The influence of
Phyllis Barron



Momart fire

It is now known that over 20 items from the Crafts Council Collection were destroyed in the fire at Momart on 24 May. Diana Woolf reports

The 1,300-strong Crafts Council Collection has been built up over the last three decades to catalogue developments in British craft, and as such it is a unique record of craft practice. As Amanda Fielding, Curator of the Collection, says: 'The Momart fire dealt the Collection its most devastating blow ever... The objects were far from ordinary – most were ground-breaking of their time, iconic even, shaping the recent history of craft, art and design.' Says Crafts Council Director Louise Taylor: 'This is a significant loss for all craftspeople involved and for the British public. The losses will leave a gap in the history of craft.' These losses – some of them irreplaceable one-off works by leading craft practitioners – include furniture by Michael Anastassiades, Ron Arad, the Azumis, El Ultimo Grito, Danny Lane and Rupert Williamson; textiles by Michael Brennand-Wood and Ann Sutton; ceramics by Alison Britton, Jill Crowley, Sara Radstone, Nick Rena and a group of Winchcombe pottery; jewellery by Julia Manheim and David Watkins; basketware by Lois Walpole and

glass by Christopher Williams. Subject to receipt of adequate insurance monies, the Purchasing Advisory Panel has recommended the replacement of pieces lost in the fire with, ideally, work of similar quality from a similar period, and with exact replacements in the area of product design. The Crafts Council has already begun a thorough review of all its current storage facilities.

The fire also destroyed a considerable amount of irreplaceable fine art, including 50 paintings by the late Patrick Heron, at least 14 works from the estate of Helen Chadwick, approximately 100 pieces from the Saatchi Collection as well as works by Patrick Caulfield, Paula Rego, Barry Flanagan and Michael Craig-Martin. Other pieces lost include such headline-grabbing Brit Art pieces as Tracey Emin's *All the People I Have Ever Slept With* 1963-1995 and the Turner nominees Jake and Dinos Chapman's *Hell*. One estimate puts the bill at £60 million, and Sir Nicolas Serota was quoted in the *Independent* (10 July 2004), emphasising the disaster's scale: 'This is a fire which will leave a permanent scar on the history of British art. It is a far more important event than it has so far been given credit for.'



CLOCKWISE from TOP: Table light, Michael Anastassiades, oak and light fitting, 1996; '1-11 Floor Pad', Ann Sutton, wool, Dacron filling, 1974; Jug, Alison Britton, ceramic, 1983

COURTESY CRAFTS COUNCIL COLLECTION