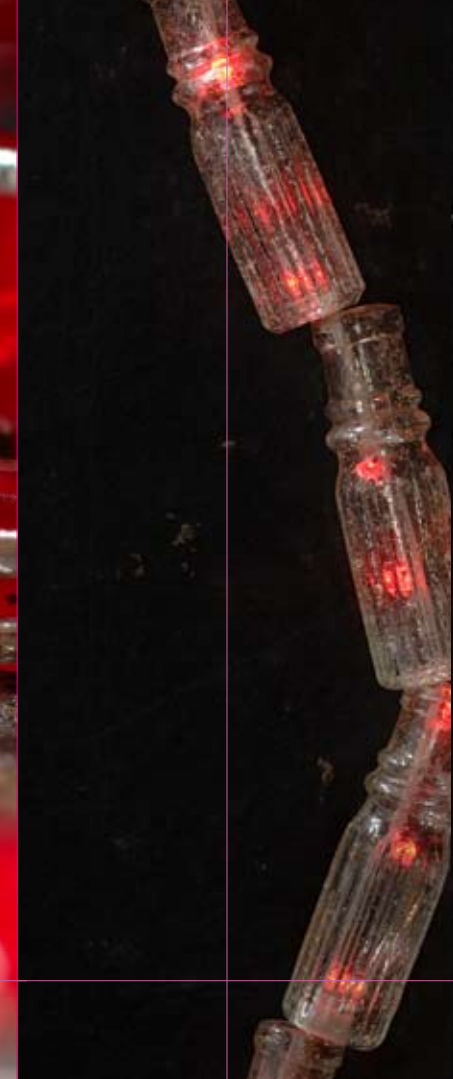
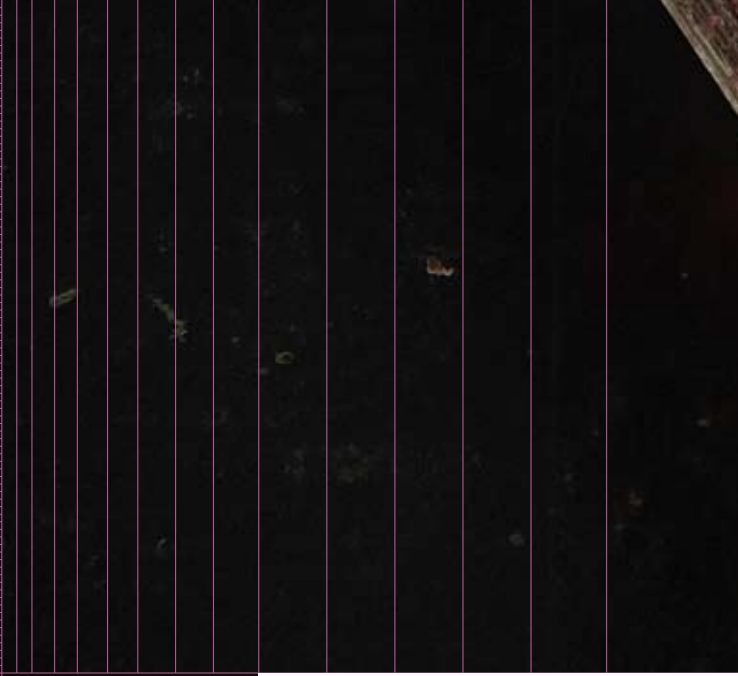
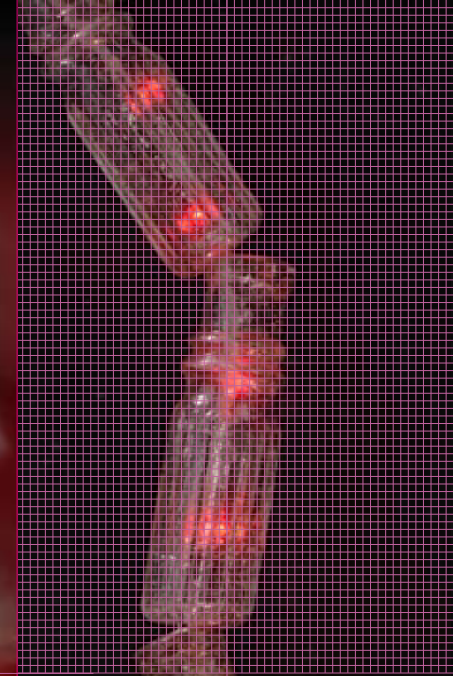


GLOWORM:

BRINGING ANTIQUE AVANT-GARDE INTO THE LIGHT


The **marcman** label from Hamburg has been presenting its first jeweLIGHTs collection since December 2006. Gloworm is one of the luminous necklaces in the series, which consists of seven pieces of jewellery in total. The designer took his inspiration from deep sea creatures such as phosphorescent jellyfish and the ghostly luminescence of angler fish. It all started with the antique glass. Or more specifically, a drawer-full of mouth-blown apothecary vials, some 150 years old. Marc Mann came across them ten years ago at an antiques market. Though still without a clear idea of what he would use them for, he immediately knew for certain that he had to have them. The gently curving forms of the tiny bottles were simply too elegant, the quality of their material too beguiling.

"By threading a handful of bottles onto a wire, I could transform them into a unique necklace." And because he happened to be designing a lot of lights at that time, it only took him a few more days to have the idea of illuminating the necklace as well. And thus the idea for the first piece of jeweLIGHTs jewellery was born.



These brainwaves were followed by end- less painstaking experimentation. Marc Mann sifted through stacks of catalogues as well as through the product ranges of various model shops and suppliers of lab- oratory equipment. In particu- lar, however, he was interested in LEDs from specialist suppliers. To prevent the heat-sen- sitive antique materials and high-performance plastics from becoming damaged, Marc Mann experimented with new processes for forming electrical contacts, where there would be no need to make soldered connections. The result of this was a piece of jewellery entitled Light Blue Collar – the first piece in the jeweLIGHTs series. This was promptly branded a “pheno- menon” by Karim Rashid in the International Design Yearbook 2003/04: “A poetic blend of old and new”, as the text remarked with admiration. Gloworm and all of the other pieces in the jew- eLIGHTs collection today are consistent further developments of this original idea. Antique glass is still one of the key materials in the jewe- LIGHTs: Gloworm makes use of mouth-blown antique vials. For other pieces in the collection, a variety of different sizes of glass vials have been added, as well as Venetian and Bohemian glass beads, likewise around 150 years old.



A large number of small, clear, cylindrical LED components are scattered across a dark surface. The components are of various sizes and orientations, some appearing as simple tubes and others as more complex structures with internal details visible. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the transparency and facets of the components against the dark background.

The ongoing miniaturisation of LED (light-emitting diode) technology allows Marc Mann to illuminate his pieces even more comprehensively, while always ensuring that the light source remains concealed. This is an important part of what gives his jewellery its magical aura.

The jeweLIGHTs are also highly sophisticated from a technical point of view. A single set of batteries is sufficient to douse the wearer of a jeweLIGHTs in a gentle shimmer for an entire evening - and right through to dusk, if that is what is required.

Marc Mann prefers to integrate the batteries directly into the piece of jewellery, provided that this is possible without compromising the appearance of the item. For this purpose he also uses powerful miniature batteries for digital cameras and PDAs. An ingenious switching mechanism is essential, especially for ensuring long periods of illumination.



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