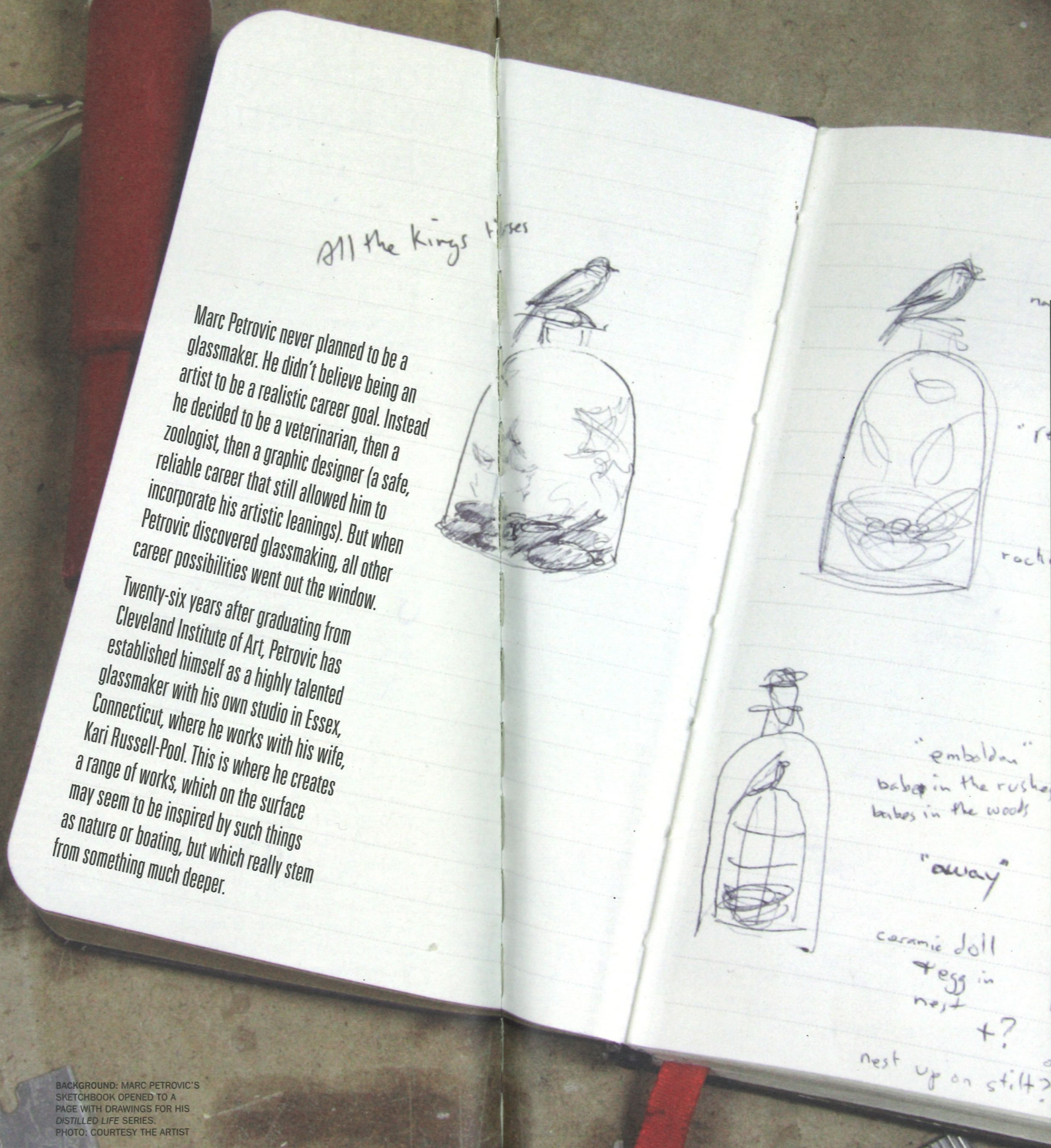


# MARC PETROVIC



All the Kings Hises

Marc Petrovic never planned to be a glassmaker. He didn't believe being an artist to be a realistic career goal. Instead he decided to be a veterinarian, then a zoologist, then a graphic designer (a safe, reliable career that still allowed him to incorporate his artistic leanings). But when Petrovic discovered glassmaking, all other career possibilities went out the window.

Twenty-six years after graduating from Cleveland Institute of Art, Petrovic has established himself as a highly talented glassmaker with his own studio in Essex, Connecticut, where he works with his wife, Kari Russell-Pool. This is where he creates a range of works, which on the surface may seem to be inspired by such things as nature or boating, but which really stem from something much deeper.

Annual rings - incubate keep

"embolden"  
babes in the bushes  
babes in the woods

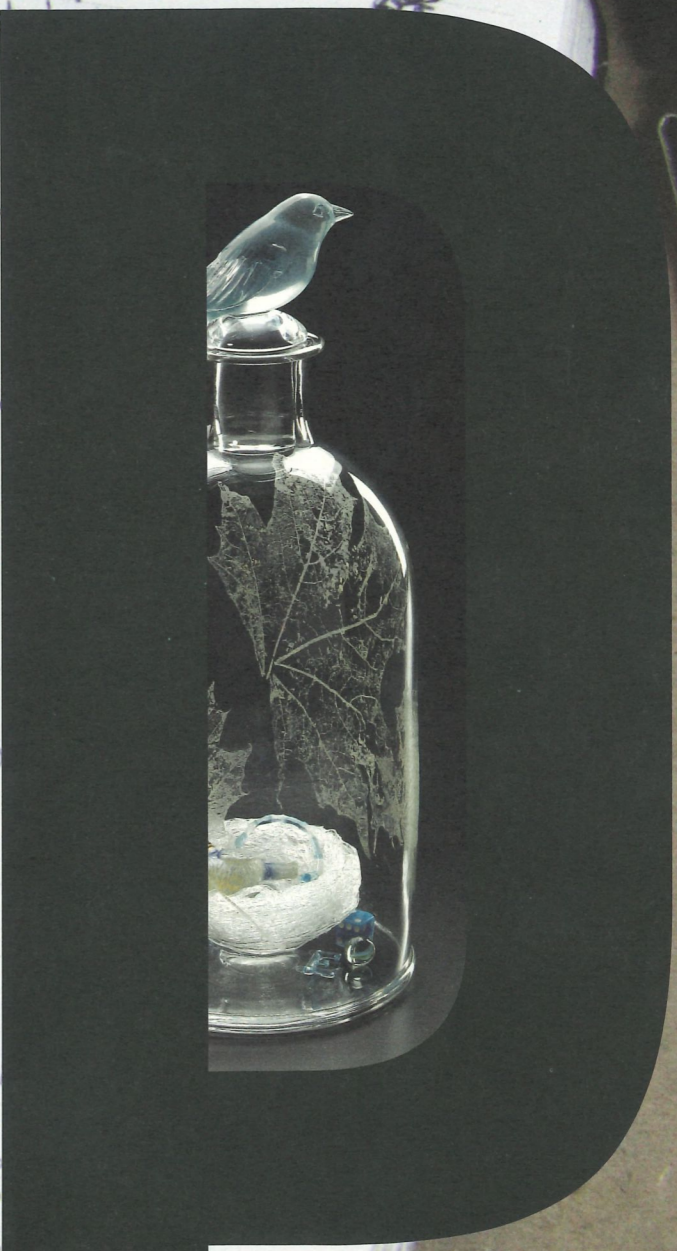
"away"

ceramic doll  
+ egg in nest  
+?

nest up on stilt?

BACKGROUND: MARC PETROVIC'S SKETCHBOOK, OPENED TO A PAGE WITH DRAWINGS FOR HIS DISTILLED LIFE SERIES. PHOTO: COURTESY THE ARTIST

INSET: BOWER BIRD, 2007. HOT SCULPTED AND BLOWN GLASS, FOUND OBJECTS. PHOTO: JOHN POLAK



'Glass, more than any other material, is championed because of its virtuosity and its colour,' says Petrovic. 'I don't want my work to be about beauty. I want to make work that has ideas behind it.'<sup>1</sup>

Initially, these ideas may be unclear, and the process of creation is what leads to understanding. Sometimes he finds answers, sometimes he doesn't. 'Some are dead-end series,' he says. 'Others lend themselves very well to this pursuit.'

One of these is Petrovic's *Distilled life* bottle series. Created from the desire to separately address questions he had about such things as identity and relationships, the bottles hold glass objects within them, each one encapsulating an idea.

Petrovic's quest can last for years, since he jumps from one project to another based on how he is feeling at the time. 'I'm not the same person on Friday that I was on Monday,' he explains. This self-understanding just may be the key to how Petrovic finally discovers what he's looking for. ■■■■

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1. All quotes are from an interview with the artist, 3 December 2007.



BACKGROUND: MARC PETROVIC, 3 POTIONS (DETAIL), 2007, HOT SCULPTED AND BLOWN GLASS. PHOTO: COURTESY THE ARTIST

TOP RIGHT: MARC PETROVIC GATHERING GLASS IN HIS HOT SHOP 2007. PHOTO: KIM TYLER

BOTTOM RIGHT: MARC PETROVIC WORKING ON HIS *DISTILLED LIFE* SERIES, 2007. PHOTO: KIM TYLER