



## Fragment

**Brief description:** Fragment (1956-59), a sculptural panel in glass and lead by Geoffrey Clarke

Fragment (circa 1956-59) is a sculptural piece in glass and lead sheet, which experiments with surface texture and three-dimensional abstract form. Together with a companion panel entitled *Embryo* (now lost), *Fragment* was included in the highly publicised *British Artist Craftsmen*' exhibition organised by the Smithsonian Institution that toured the USA in 1959-60. In the upper part of the panel, a cylindrical form of lead sheet penetrates the panel, projecting into both the space in front and behind the panel. *Fragment* represents one of the earliest appearances of Clarke's swirling symbolic form, which held both a spiritual and symbolic importance for the artist. The sculptural panel is also contemporary with Clarke's designs for the multicoloured window *Man in Maturity* for the nave of Coventry Cathedral. In the context of the development of Clarke's glass, *Fragment* represents an important stage between his mosaics (1949-55) and the fully three-dimensional works in aluminium and glass for Ipswich Civic College (1961), Crownhill Parish Church (1961), Taunton Crematorium (1963) and Manchester College of Art (1969). Following damage to *Embryo* and its subsequent disappearance, *Fragment* now constitutes the sole surviving example of Clarke's early, sculptural work in lead and glass.

**Object type:** panel

**Number of objects:** 1

**Production date:** 1956-1959

**Production period:** 20th century, late

**Designer:** Geoffrey Clarke

**Dimensions:** Height: 945 mm, Width: 730 mm

**Acquisition:** purchase 21.1.2014

**Acquisition source:** Clarke, Geoffrey

**Accession number:** ELYGM:2014.2

**Permalink:** <https://stainedglassmuseum.com/object/ELYGM:2014.2>





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