

Cornelia Parker: One Day This Glass Will Break

Saturday 24 January–Saturday 14 March 2026

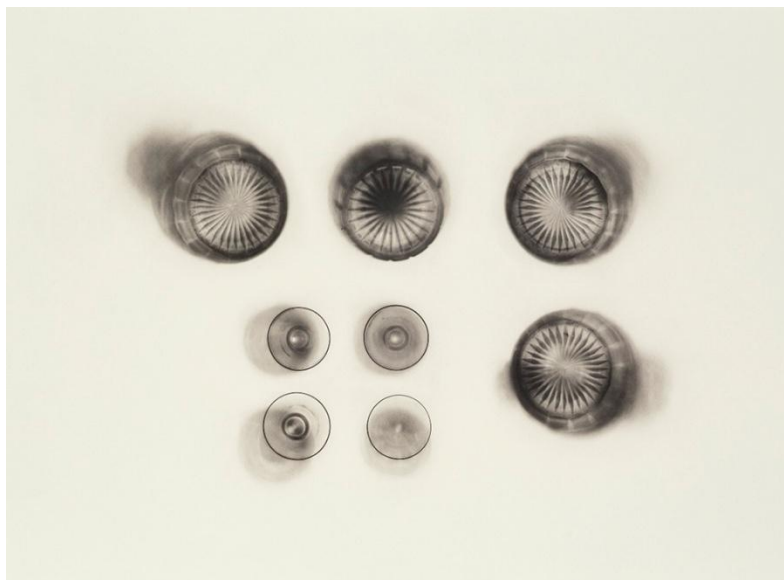
A Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition from Southbank Centre, London, *One Day This Glass Will Break* consists of twenty large-scale photogravures by Cornelia Parker from three experimental series:

Fox Talbot's Articles of Glass (2017); *One Day This Glass Will Break* (2015); and *Thirty Pieces of Silver (exposed)* (2015).

Taken together, the series explores the artist's fascination with the physical properties of objects, materials and their histories.

The exhibition includes eight works from the series *One Day This Glass Will Break* (2015), which arose from Parker's investigations into the photogravure, a photomechanical process which produces an image through the exposure of a photographic positive onto a copper printing plate. Inspired by the 19th-century photographic pioneer William Henry Fox Talbot, Parker combined two of his early techniques, solar prints and photogravure, creating a new hybrid form of print by exposing three-dimensional objects to ultraviolet light. In these works, she uses found objects such as a tower of crystal glasses, a shattered light bulb and melting ice cubes, with the resulting prints capturing their shadows in a spectral still life.

In *Fox Talbot's Articles of Glass* (2017) series of nine prints, Cornelia Parker explores this technique further using the last remaining items of glassware belonging to Fox Talbot, which he famously used in his early photograph, *Articles of Glass* (c. 1844), and are now housed in Oxford's Bodleian Library. The artist arranged these historical objects in various informal compositions on the printing plate, with some with their museum labels still attached. The lead content of this early glassware produces darker shadows, resulting in prints that are richer and deeper in tone.



Fox Talbot's Articles of Glass (bottoms up), 2016.
Courtesy and © the artist and Alan Cristea Gallery.

Two prints from another series, *Thirty Pieces of Silver (exposed)* (2015), are also included. Here, the artist uses found glass photographic negatives of antique silverware, originally produced for a 1960s Spink auction catalogue. Exposed to the photogravure plate in their original glassine bags, the negatives appear as physical, dimensional objects themselves. This series evokes a major early work by Cornelia Parker, *Thirty Pieces of Silver*, (1988-89), which consisted of over a thousand pieces of silver flattened by a steamroller and suspended on wires hovering above the gallery floor.

HAYWARD GALLERY

TOURING

Opening times

24 January – 14 March 2026

Open

Monday to Friday 2–4 pm; Saturday 2–6 pm

Closed

Sunday

Information for visitors

- To access the exhibition, please call in via the Porter's Lodge on Magdalene Street.
- Entrance will be to the Gallery only.
- Visitors are kindly requested not to enter any other areas of the New Library.

Header image: Fox Talbot's Articles of Glass (bottoms up), 2016. Courtesy and © the artist and Alan Cristea Gallery.