



# Vision Quest

Designer Stuart Haygarth helps people to see the light by giving disused glasses a whole new prescription

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They come in various conditions: scuffed up, barely broken in, or even held together with band-aids. Some are adorned with luxury labels, while others are off the racks of your local pharmacy. Stuart Haygarth, a lighting designer and photographer, stores his specs collection in cardboard boxes piled high in his studio, often mining it for materials to create his luminous installations. His most recent, *Spectacle*, a 7.6-foot tall tiered chandelier composed of over 1,000 frames gives new meaning to the term artistic vision.

Working with Vision Aid Overseas, a charitable organization that collects unwanted eyewear from opticians throughout the UK for redistribution in Africa, Haygarth hunts down translucent plastic frames, some nearly half a century old, removes their arms and then cleans each frame by hand. Each pair is classified by structure, linked together with other frames that share its general shape, and then hung from a circular acrylic platform that surrounds a central light source, creating a prism-like effect as light is refracted through layer upon layer of variously curved lenses. This spring, pieces from the 20th edition project will be on display at the Toolsgalerie in Paris.

Since 2004, Haygarth has often used found and abandoned objects in his designs, preserving yet slightly redirecting their original function. "It's a shame something so vital to a person's life suddenly becomes defunct and worthless," he says. "By bringing these objects together as one strong unit, almost like a family, they seem to find a renewed sense of purpose." Quite an interesting perspective indeed. **TJ**