

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Autumn 2021

Two Glass Museums Explore the Natural World

There is a special opportunity for leaf peepers in New England this Fall. As well as putting on a dazzling display outside, nature has also provided the inspiration for a pair of glass exhibits opening soon in Massachusetts. The first to open, *Glass Lifeforms 2021*, will be in the Stone and Barstow Galleries at the Fuller Craft Museum from November 6, 2021 to April 24, 2022. The exhibit features contemporary biological glass models inspired by Harvard University's internationally acclaimed Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants, a collection produced in the 19th and

20th centuries by Czech glass artists Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka. An open call exhibition, *Glass Lifeforms 2021* includes artists working in

various glass techniques, including lampworking, glassblowing, and *pâte de verre*. Exhibited works were selected by a jury based on accuracy in representing the organism, aesthetic beauty, presentation, and originality.



FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM

455 Oak St.

Brockton, MA 02301

(508) 588-6000

<https://fullercraft.org>

mus musculus familia. Caterina and David Urrata. Lampworked glass.

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The Sandwich Glass Museum also opens a new exhibit on November 19 for a short run. Titled *Forever in Bloom: Florals Depicted in Glass*, it runs only through December 30, 2021. This winter exhibition is part of the *12th Annual Glassblowers' Christmas* celebration. This colorful display will brighten any winter's day with works from the Victorian era, as well as examples from local glass artists.

Although floral motifs were always popular, they gained momentum during the late 19th century. Keeping up with the trend, floral motifs were depicted on a wide range of items

produced by the Boston & Sandwich Glass Company (1825–1888). Today, glass artists feature flowers in many forms. For example, David McDermott used a murrini cane to create a floral landscape for a vase inspired by the painting, *Field of Flowers*, by Egidio Antonaccio. The red poppy, which dominates the vase, was a symbol of conciliation or sleep.

SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM

129 Main St.

Sandwich, MA 02563

(508) 888-0251

www.sandwichglassmuseum.org



Murrini cane floral landscape vase. David McDermott.

President's Letter

Friends,

In just a few months I will embark on my 30th year of membership in the NAGC. I originally became involved because my employer, the Historical Society of Western PA, served as the longtime host and partner for the Lowell Innes Pittsburgh Chapter of the Club. I had begun work on what eventually became the *Glass: Shattering Notions* exhibit at the Heinz History Center (the Historical Society's new home), so I was deputized to unlock the doors, set up the chairs, start the coffee, and assist with NAGC meetings in our building. When the Historical Society moved from our old home in Pittsburgh's Oakland

neighborhood, to our current building (about 20 times bigger) on the edge of downtown, the Club came with us.

I've missed very few meetings in 30 years—one after each of my children was born, an occasional night for a kid's birthday or a night game when I was coaching. That's a lot of second Tuesdays at 7:30, now 7:00 pm.

Along the way I've met wonderful people, many that I am lucky to call friends, heard some amazing lectures, and learned from many of the great glass minds from around the country and from right here in our region.

I know many of you have belonged to the NAGC much longer than I have and probably have many more memories of meetings, auctions, seminars,

and great friendships. The passion we share for collecting and learning about glass has sustained this Club. Yes, we've had a rough year and a half—many chapters have been unable to meet or are seeing just limited attendance at virtual meetings. But I'm asking you to hang in there—to continue to support the Club with your membership and to reach out and connect with your fellow members and friends. The Club needs your loyal support, positive energy, and creative ideas as we work towards a future when we can be together again.

All my best,
Anne Madarasz
NAGC President

New Glass Now at the Smithsonian Renwick Gallery

Opening October 22, *New Glass Now* documents the innovation and dexterity of artists, designers, and architects from around the world working in the challenging material of glass.

This global survey is designed to highlight the breadth and depth of contemporary glass making. Its presentation at SAAM's Renwick Gallery features objects, installations, videos, and performances made by 50 artists working in more than 23 countries. From technically masterful vessels to experiments in the chemistry of glass, these works challenge the very notion of what the material of glass is and what it can do.

New Glass Now, organized by The Corning Museum of Glass, was curated by a panel of thinkers, makers, and writers and is the result of their varied perspectives and experiences.

In 2018, The Corning Museum of Glass issued an open call for submissions to artists and designers from around the world, asking for works

made in the previous three years. Anyone working in glass could apply from the novice hobbyist to the most famous artists—all were given equal

consideration. More than 1,400 individuals, collaborators, and companies submitted nearly 4,000 images of work. The Corning Museum of Glass then asked the curatorial panel to review and choose 100 artworks that best represented a diverse approach to glass working today.

New Glass Now is the third iteration of a groundbreaking exhibition series. The two prior exhibitions, *Glass 1959* and *New Glass: A Worldwide Survey* in 1979, catalyzed major changes in the glass field. The Renwick Gallery hosted *New Glass: A Worldwide Survey* in 1980. Today, as the Renwick continues to keep up with the pulse of contemporary glass in the United States, *New Glass Now* once again highlights the dynamic, global field.



Hugged to Death. Austin Stern, about 2017.
Photo courtesy of Corning Museum of Glass.

SMITHSONIAN RENWICK
GALLERY
Pennsylvania Ave. at 17th St. NW
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 633-7970
<https://americanart.si.edu>

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum Exhibit

Between Us: A Retrospective of Work by John Littleton and Kate Vogel will open on October 1, 2021 and run through February 13, 2022. Working collaboratively since 1979, renowned artists Littleton and Vogel create sculptural blown and cast glass works and installations that speak to the importance of their relationships to one another, their family, and their community. This retrospective exhibition highlights important works, milestones, and innovations in their shared careers—all while tying their experiences and influences back to John's father, Harvey Littleton.

BERGSTROM-MAHLER MUSEUM OF GLASS

165 N. Park Ave.

Neenah, WI 54956

(920) 751-4658

<https://bmmglass.com>



Pink Meditation. John Littleton and Kate Vogel, 2013.

Innovations in Cut Glass

Through December 15th there is a special exhibit at the Dorflinger Factory Museum, *John S. O'Connor, Dorflinger's Design Genius*. This exhibit features examples of some of



O'Connor's most artistic and innovative cut glass designs. Included in the exhibit are several exceptional O'Connor family pieces. O'Connor headed the cutting department at the Dorflinger Glass Works in White Mills, PA, from 1867 to 1890. During this period, he designed many of Dorflinger's most innovative and popular cut glass patterns, including the Florentine, Parisian, and Colonial patterns. In 1890, O'Connor left C. Dorflinger & Sons to open the J.S. O'Connor Rich Cut Glass Company in Hawley, Pennsylvania.

DORFLINGER FACTORY MUSEUM

5 Elizabeth St.

White Mills, PA 18431

(570) 253-0220

<https://dorflingerfactorymuseum.com>

Toledo Museum of Art

Chameleon Effects: Glass (Un)Defined is opened in the Wolfe Gallery Mezzanine through March 27, 2022. It brings together historical and contemporary works from the Toledo Museum of Art's collection to explore the technical and formal possibilities of glass. One of the oldest human-made substances, glass is neither a true solid nor a liquid and belies conventional understandings of how materials work. For more than 4,000 years, artists have exploited the mutability of glass, transforming it into an impressive range of forms, colors, and textures, often blurring the lines between one medium and another. More recently, artists have turned to newer materials and techniques, such as plastic and photography, to draw connections with the past. Looking at the relationship between glass, precious stones, metalwork, ceramics, photography, and performance, *Chameleon Effects* demonstrates the history of glass' interaction with other materials, while



Small Tray with Chameleon. Henri Marie Joseph Berge, designer, Victor Amalric Walter, manufacturer, about 1920.

challenging traditional art historical categories of separate media and defined materials.

TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART

2445 Monroe St.

Toledo, OH 43620

(419) 255-8000

www.toledomuseum.org

Art of Fire: Frederick Carder and Steuben Glass at the Wichita Art Museum

Completely reimagined, the museum presents a compelling arrangement of the distinguished and growing glass art collection. Revealing WAM's rich holdings, the variety, quality, and artistry of Steuben glass will be on view. In fascinating ways, the exquisite work of the Steuben Glass Works, the world-class glass manufacturer (1903–2011), continues to beguile and inspire artists. The new installation acknowledges and examines how contemporary glass artists explore the continuing allure and legacy of Steuben. Work by such living artists as Dante Marionni and Kiki Smith will be on view.

The display will also feature a new commission—an elaborate, Steuben-inspired candelabrum—by glass artist Andy Paiko. This special work is effervescent! It incorporates an abundantly

enthusiastic array of forms and techniques first developed by Steuben. Paiko's tapering candle holders hang gracefully from the central form, each demonstrating the Steuben "air-twist" technique, perfected by designer George Thompson. The cinched, bell-shaped forms of the upper part of the large-scale candelabrum are typical of Thompson's designs. WAM's collection includes original sketches by Thompson during his time working for Steuben, making Paiko's reimagining of Thompson's forms particularly relevant to the collection.

WICHITA ART MUSEUM
1400 West Museum Blvd.
Wichita, KS 67203
(316)268-4921
<https://wichitaartmuseum.org>



WAM Candelabrum. Andy Paiko, 2015.

What are You Looking At? An Eccentric Chorus of Artists Working in Glass

For the past 18 years, a unique residency partnership between Pilchuck Glass School and the Museum of Glass has presented a diverse group of artists, designers, and crafts people with the opportunity to experiment in glass. By creating material access and putting the unique expertise and craftsmanship of glass specialists in the hands of artists of all backgrounds, doors are opened to new avenues of investigation. From conceptual installation and object makers to the designers of functional furnishing and fantastical fashion accessories, the artists come to their materials with a wide range of intention.

What Are You Looking At? (September 26, 2021 to Fall 2022) highlights unique experiments and



Two-Headed Tower. Andrea Dezsö, 2019.

prototypes pursued during artist residencies in the context of each artist's larger artistic practice. The diversity of creative voices and the collective wonder that they generate exemplifies the objectives of the residency programs at both Pilchuck Glass School and Museum of Glass. Videos made during each residency will also be prominently featured, providing the audience a look into the artists' intentions and clues to how they will incorporate glass into their conceptual vocabularies.

MUSEUM OF GLASS
1801 Dock St.
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 284-4750
www.museumofglass.org

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised. More information is available on our Web page at www.glassclub.org)

Through January 16, 2022

IMAGINE MUSEUM

Peter Bremers: Transformation and Transcendence

1901 Central Ave.

St. Petersburg, FL 33713

(727) 300-1700

www.imaginemuseum.com

Dutch-born artist, Peter Bremers, is known for his monumental cast glass sculptures, which are inspired by his worldwide travels and his interactions with nature's most extreme landscapes. Throughout his career, Bremers has made every effort to learn about glass and its properties; forever changing and developing his approach to glass as a vessel of light, color, form, movement, rhythm, volume, and direction.



The Last Iceberg. Peter Bremers, 2014.

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October 1–11, 2021

THE CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS

Glass Farmers Market

One Museum Way

Corning, NY 14830

(607) 937-5371

www.cmog.org

Jump into fall and shop the Glass Farmers Market! You can also shop for glass pumpkins online.

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October 2–3, 2021

Front Range Glass Show and Sale

5280 Arena Circle

Loveland, CO 80538

(319) 939-3837

<https://frontrangeglassshow.com>

Northern Colorado's leading presentation of Depression-era glass.

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October 6–9, 2021

VASELINE GLASS COLLECTORS

22nd Annual Vaseline Glass

Collectors Convention

Pittsburgh, PA

www.vaselineglass.org

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October 8–9, 2021

THE CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS

59th Annual Seminar on Glass

One Museum Way

Corning, NY 14830

(607) 937-5371

www.cmog.org

For the first time, the Seminar will be virtual. The free online seminar includes lectures and panel discussions, with pre- and post-seminar digital materials. Presented in conjunction with the special exhibition *In Sparkling Company: Glass and Social Life in Britain during the 1700s*, on view until January 3, 2022.



Casket with glass panels about 1760–1770. The Corning Museum of Glass (84.2.54).

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October 23, 2021

SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM

Sandwich 10th Annual PumpkinFest

November 19–December 30, 2021

12th Annual Glassblowers' Christmas

129 Main Street

Sandwich, MA 02563

(508) 888-0251

www.sandwichglassmuseum.org



Each year the Sandwich Glass Museum challenges local glass artists to craft one-of-a-kind or limited-edition creations. Ranging from the petite to large scale and in hues from the classic orange to multi-color, there will be an exciting array. All pumpkins will be available for purchase.

Then in November, the Sandwich Museum's Gift Store decorates multiple trees with hundreds of unique glass ornaments, all handmade by local glass artists. From the traditional to the more unusual, each artist's creation is meticulously crafted. Whether you are looking for a new ornament for your tree or a special gift, be sure to visit the Museum's Store.

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November 6–7, 2021

MICHIGAN DEPRESSION GLASS SOCIETY

48th Annual Show & Sale

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

15801 Michigan Ave

Dearborn, MI 48126

www.michigandepressionglass.com

If You Thirst for a Homeland: Flame-Worked Glass by Dafna Kaffeman

"If you thirst for a homeland and seek shelter in its bosom, love it and live in its mountains and valleys, its flora and fauna."

Inspired by nature, the exhibition (through December 12, 2021) features the art of Dafna Kaffeman and conveys the complexities of life in modern Israel. Kaffeman creates exquisitely crafted plant replicas using flame-worked glass. These botanical specimens reflect the natural world of the artist's homeland. The glass plants are combined with Hebrew and Arabic words printed or embroidered on soft white fabric, including handkerchiefs which are often associated with Jewish cultural practices of celebration, commemoration, sacrifice, and mourning. Each plant the artist renders

in glass has its own cultural and historical meaning.

Many artworks in the exhibition include quotations that have been pulled directly from newspaper articles describing current events in Israel. Other artworks incorporate excerpts from a 1965 field guide to Israeli plants,



including the particularly poignant line quoted above.

The combination of glass with text and fabric ignites both an intellectual and emotional response. The fragility of the glass botanicals emphasizes the fragility of all life; the Hebrew and Arabic texts may be indecipherable to many viewers, making the works feel ancient or exotic. In addition to mixed-media and flame-worked glass artworks, the exhibition will also include works on paper to further extend the artist's meditation on nature, culture, and conflict.

CHRYSLER MUSEUM OF ART
One Memorial Place
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
(757) 664-6200
<https://chrysler.org>

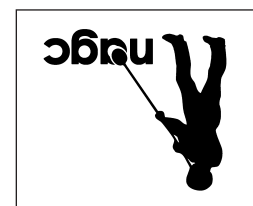
DECEMBER 1, 2021
DEADLINE
NEXT ISSUE'S

www.glassclub.org
Visit NAGC Web page:

ATTENTION READERS!
The next deadline for the *Glass Shards* will be
December 1, 2021
Submit news to Alice Saville, *Glass Shards* Editor, at
planetalsaville@gmail.com

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