



Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Autumn 2014

Lightness of Being – New Sculpture – Howard Ben Tré

Internationally-recognized artist Howard Ben Tré debuts his exhibition of industrial, architecturally oriented sculptures in the Pacific Northwest at Museum of Glass, now through January 4, 2015. Creating a forest of vertical shapes, Ben Tré returns to his sculptural roots with “Lightness of Being – New Sculpture – Howard Ben Tré,” which features cast glass and bronze artworks up to eight feet tall.

Ben Tré first made his mark in Tacoma in 2002 with his public sculpture commission, Water Forest, an outdoor installation of clear acrylic and bronze tubing that spouts water on the Museum’s main plaza. A pioneer in the use of cast glass as a sculptural medium, Ben Tré’s work has been displayed in 39 solo exhibitions across the United States and abroad and is included in over 80 museum and public collections worldwide.

Ben Tré’s debut exhibition at Museum of Glass will remind visitors accustomed to watching glassblowing of



Lightness of Being, #2, #3, #7,
Howard Ben Tré.

the equally technical method of casting glass, as explored through architectural abstraction alongside an investigation of the human form. His forest of vertical sculptures in *Lightness of Being* contains recognizable shapes, such as the lighthouse, obelisk, minaret and totem pole, while also evoking a sense

of human form with sensual curves and shapes, deliberately positioned as hips and shoulders.

“Howard Ben Tré’s masterfully lyrical and timeless forms will provide a reflective and contemplative experience for our visitors that is rich in historical reference,” notes Museum of Glass Executive Director Susan Warner.

A focal point in the series is the bubbles trapped in the glass, arrested in their natural inclination to rise. As the glass cooled, they became frozen, hanging in suspension often near the spire, drawing the eye upward and hinting at the connection to the title, the essential lightness that conveys a rising up, a spiritually informed sense of presence.

Museum of Glass
1801 Dock Street
Tacoma, WA 98402-3217
www.museumofglass.org

Maryland to Murano: Neckpieces and Sculptures by Joyce J. Scott

Bringing together Scott’s neckpieces and blown glass sculptures for the first time, “Maryland to Murano: Neckpieces and Sculptures by Joyce J. Scott” at the Museum of Art and Design examines Scott’s prolific career, defined by her ever-evolving techniques, continued exploration of provocative narratives, and commitment to her craft.

“Maryland to Murano” will be the first exhibition to examine the relationship between Scott’s beaded and constructed neckpieces created in her Baltimore, Maryland, studio and her more recent blown glass sculptures crafted in the Berengo Studio on Murano Island in Venice, Italy. On view now to March 15, 2015, this exhibition demonstrates

the interplay between these two bodies of work and reveals the range of Scott’s technique and skill, as well as the complex relationship she has shaped among adornment, content and methodology.

Organized by MAD’s chief curator Lowery Stokes Sims and curatorial assistant Sophia Merkin, the exhibition

features 34 of Scott's neckpieces, including a collaboration with noted jeweler Art Smith, 3 beaded wall hangings, and 13 glass sculptures, most of which were created since 2009. Born in Baltimore in 1948, Scott has lived, studied, and worked in Maryland all her life. Challenging perceived dichotomies between art and craft, sophistication and naïveté, and politics and adornment, Scott has succeeded in incorporating these elements within a vast and varied body of work including installation, print-making, apparel, sculpture, and jewelry, the last of which has garnered her the widest audience and recognition. In Scott's hands, human adornment

becomes a vehicle for social commentary and a means for confronting contentious issues affecting contemporary society. Navigating controversial themes including hunger, rape, and racial stereotypes, Scott's jewelry transcends the typical function of adornment and embellishment.

Museum of Arts and Design
2 Columbus Circle
New York, NY 10019
(212) 299-7777
www.madmuseum.org

***Buddha (Fire)*, Joyce J. Scott. Hand-blown Murano glass processes with beads, wire and thread.**



Spotlight: Minnesota Museum of American Pattern Glass

As a non-profit organization, the Minnesota Museum of American Pattern Glass is dedicated to preserving and providing free public access to one of the largest collections of decorated American pattern glass in the United States. The collection primarily spans the years from the 1880s to the 1920s. It is envisioned that students, collectors, artists and persons with an appreciation of American industrialization

will be able to benefit from the Museum's collection, information and presentations.

The glass displayed at the Museum was originally made by a myriad of U.S. glass companies for purchase by most people of modest means instead of the more expensive cut glass that only the wealthy could afford. Although affordable for most Americans, the beautiful glass held a special place

in the household and was usually displayed and used for special occasions.

Minnesota Museum of American Pattern Glass
15 1st Street S., Suite A4
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 333-3757
www.mnmapg.org/home.html

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to say that our May seminar in Florida went very well, and we saw a lot of glass and heard some excellent lectures. I was disappointed, that attendance was smaller than usual, so a lot of you missed a lot of good talks and seeing glass. And, if you and your friends are interested in seeing old and new Bohemian and Czech glass, please join us as we embark on a trip to Austria and the Czech Republic (details of the trip can be found in the Summer 2014 *Bulletin* and on page 6 of this issue of *Shards*).

The Board also decided to accept the invitation to participate in the Mega-

Convention next July as we did two years ago. This will be in Indianapolis in July, 2015, at the same time as the Hoosier Antiques Show there. It will include a number of glass collecting clubs including Wavecrest glass, Vaseline glass, Early American Pattern Glass, Duncan Glass, Milk Glass, and Antique Salt and Sugar Shakers. Of course, other collecting clubs may sign up. There will be several lectures devoted to glass, as we usually have and displays by the other clubs. When we did this before, I remember that the antique show was full of glass, and when I expressed surprise to one of the dealers (as I bought a piece for The Corning Museum of Glass), he said

that all of the dealers had bought all of their glass because of the convention taking place at the same time. So if you come to the Mega-Convention, you will see a lot of glass of all types. I will hope to see many of you there!

I am sorry to report the death of Carmen Freeman, a long time member of the National American Glass Club and the organizer of many of our seminars. Her picture and an obituary, are included in this issue of *Shards*. We will all miss her cheerful smile and her organizing abilities.

— Jane Shadel Spillman, President

Glass Calendar

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

November 7, 2014–January 18, 2015

PITTSBURGH GLASS CENTER

5472 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(412) 365-2145

www.pittsburghglasscenter.org

BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM

510 Bellevue Way NE
Bellevue, WA 98004
(425) 519-0770

www.bellevuearts.org

Emerge 2014

Bullseye Glass Company, in Portland, Oregon, named the winners in “Emerge 2014,” the company’s biennial juried competition for emerging artists in kilnformed glass. The exhibition will be at the Pittsburgh Glass Center until January 2015 and then will travel to the Bellevue Arts Museum (BAM), Bellevue, Washington.

Before the awards were handed out, Bullseye Gallery director Lani McGregor announced that the Bellevue Arts Museum would host the final stop of “Emerge 2014” in the spring of 2015. “The opportunity to collaborate with a museum such as Bellevue sets this community and this method firmly into the art, craft, and design conversation of the 21st century,” said McGregor. “Stay tuned. We’ve only just begun to emerge.”

BAM will mount an amplified version of the exhibition, including all award winners, plus additional selections from the finalist works. BAM director Stefano Catalani will select the works to be included. BAM will also host the companion exhibit, “Evolve,” of former “Emerge” finalists, which opens in May at Bullseye Gallery (www.bullseyeglass.com) including a rich educational program of artist lectures, panel discussions, and workshops.

“Emerge 2014” attracted more than 320 entrants from a total of 32 countries and 35 universities. Jurors for the competition were Kathleen Moles, Emily Nachison, and James Yood.

* * * *

November 15–December 30, 2014

SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM

129 Main St.
Sandwich, MA 02563
(508) 888-0251

www.sandwichglassmuseum.org

Glassblowers' Christmas

Festive holidays in Sandwich begin at the Sandwich Glass Museum, November 15–December 30, when the museum presents its 5th annual “Glassblowers’ Christmas.” Hundreds of unique glass ornaments made by the region’s finest local and national glass artists, will adorn Christmas trees in the Contemporary Gallery. The visitor will be transported into a magical display of color and childhood memories. It is truly an enchanting time at the museum.

In addition, a special exhibition, “Dolls of Yesteryear—Antique Dolls and Glass Toys,” will enthrall young and old alike. In partnership with the Yesteryears Doll Collectors, an unusual and one-of-a-kind collection of period dolls will be displayed together with antique glass toys from times gone by.

* * * *

November 23, 2014

NATIONAL GLASS FAIR

National Motorcycle Museum
Coventry Rd.
Bickenhill, Solihull
West Midlands
England

www.nationalglassfair.co.uk/location.html

Annual Glass Fair

The National Glass Fair features about 80 exhibitors, including many high-quality dealers offering rare and sought-after examples of decorative glass.

As in the past, there will be an exhibition showcasing glass of a particular

style or maker. This year it will focus on the various types of uranium glass produced by glass factories around the world. The exhibition has been put together by and features objects from the personal collection of Leni Simons.

There will also be a book signing by G. G. Weiner, author of the newly published *Unique Lalique Mascots: The Automotive Radiator Hood Ornaments of Master Glass Artisan R. Lalique* and member of the Lalique Mascot Collecting Club.

Fans of contemporary glass will be especially pleased to see the addition of some new faces at the fair. In particular, Elliot Walker, who specializes in sculptural work, will be exhibiting alongside a number of well-known contemporary makers, such as Vic Bamforth and Helen Millard, who exhibit regularly at the fair.

A selection of items offered for sale will be available for viewing by visiting the Preview Gallery page of the Web site.

* * * *

January 11, 2015

LITTLE RHODY BOTTLE CLUB

Knights of Columbus Hall
304 Highland Ave.
South Attleboro, MA.

www.littlerhodybottleclub.org

Annual Antique Bottle Show

Hundreds of local collectors and buyers will gather for the Little Rhody Bottle Club’s show and sale, where thousands of antique bottles will be displayed. All types of bottles, from flasks to medicine and soda bottles, will be showcased and available for purchase.

Founded in 1970, the Little Rhody Bottle Club has continually strived to promote the hobby of antique bottle collecting through the preservation of antique bottles and education through research relative to the companies those bottles represent.

Beauty Beyond Nature: The Glass Art of Paul Stankard The Robert M. Minkoff Collection

This exhibition, on view until February 15, 2015, showcases 70 exquisite glass pieces spanning the illustrious and influential career of this artist. The exhibit presents a testament to a collector-artist relationship that has opened the world of glass art and the thoughts



Honeybees Swarming a Floral Hive Cluster,
Paul Stankard. Photo by Ron Farina.

of one artist to a broad spectrum of participants. It is this relationship that inspired the formation of The Robert M. Minkoff Foundation with its dedication to advancing glass art. Robert M. Minkoff encountered Paul Stankard's work in 2005 and in a very brief period, built a definitive collection documenting the artist's journey in glass.

"Stankard's encasements in glass create an interior world that is profoundly altered by light that offers multiple viewing angles to discover new perspectives, and that represents a highly developed level of technical skill. . . ."

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
165 N. Park Ave.
Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 751-4658
<http://bmmglass.com>

South by Southeast: Masters of Studio Glass

South by Southeast: Masters of Studio Glass is an invitational group exhibition organized by the Huntsville Museum of Art to showcase the work of noted American glass artists living and working in our region. This exhibit will be presented alongside



Thursday, Richard Jolley, 2007.

Ginny Ruffner: Aesthetic Engineering, a major exhibition of dramatic mixed media works by this internationally acclaimed artist and native Southerner. The artists selected for *South by Southeast* include Ché Rhodes and Stephen Rolfe Powell of Kentucky; Richard Jolley and Tommie Rush of Tennessee; and John Littleton, Kate Vogel, and Rick Beck of North Carolina. Included works range from fanciful tabletop vessels of blown, hot worked and acid etched glass to dramatic mixed media sculptures and installation pieces combining cast and fabricated glass and steel. *South by Southeast* is on view until February 8, 2015.

Huntsville Museum of Art
300 Church St.
South Huntsville, AL 35801
(256) 535-4350
<http://hsvmuseum.org>

Carmen Freeman 1926–2014

In August NAGC was diminished by the sad loss of dear friend and staunch supporter Carmen "Connie" Freeman. For many years Carmen was involved with the activities of both the Mt. Washington and Pairpoint Glass Society (MWPGS) and the NAGC. MWPGS has recently joined with NAGC as a new chapter. In addition to serving as MWPGS Secretary and providing assistance in both official and unofficial capacities for many years, Carmen's most notable achievement was organizing donor support for payment of the costs of publication of the first volume of *Mt. Washington & Pairpoint Glass* by her friend and neighbor Kenneth M. Wilson in 2005. Without Carmen's considerable efforts as a fundraiser, we almost certainly would never have seen publication of this significant book. NAGC members may be more familiar with Carmen's efforts in organizing our annual seminars for a



Carmen Freeman.

number of years, first as an assistant to Ellen Roberts and then on her own. We will all miss her affection, energy and enthusiasm for glass. Carmen was a resident of Osprey, FL and is survived by her husband Terry and daughters Marla, Paula and Andrea and their families. A memorial service was held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Venice, FL. The family has requested donations to the Alzheimer's Association in lieu of flowers.

Expanded Gallery for Arthur Rubloff Collection of Paperweights

Thanks to the generous support of the International Paperweight Society Foundation and L. H. Selman, Ltd., along with the involvement of the family of Wes Clark in memory of Paul Jokelson, the Art Institute of Chicago was able to expand its gallery dedicated to paperweights.

The Arthur Rubloff Collection of Paperweights came to the museum in 1978. Rubloff, a real estate developer and philanthropist, was among the first generation of 20th-century paperweight collectors to rediscover objects of the mid-19th century, known as the form's classic period. He made his first paperweight purchases in 1947 as gifts for his real estate partner, who had a

small collection, but soon became enamored with the objects himself. He was not alone; a growing number of collectors gathered under the umbrella of the Paperweight Collectors Association, founded in 1953. Rubloff eventually amassed a total of 1,472 paperweights, of which 1,200 were donated to the Art Institute. This remarkable assemblage is now recognized as one of three premier collections in the world. Few collections more fully showcase the quality of craftsmanship, technological innovation, intricacy, and beauty of this art form.

The gallery expansion project increased the number of paperweights on view from 341 to more than 800.

Eight new wall cases, along with a new pedestal case, have been installed, all to highlight a larger selection from the Rubloff Collection. And, for the first time a dedicated space features a selection of contemporary paperweights, including a beautiful new piece designed especially for the gallery reopening by renowned paperweight artist Paul Stankard.

Art Institute of Chicago
111 South Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60603-6404
(312) 443-3600
www.artic.edu

Love Glass? Book NOW! (Seriously) 31st NAGC Seminar and the Second Glass Mega Convention July 9–11, 2015 in Indianapolis, Indiana

If you came to Kansas City for the first joint NAGC Seminar/Mega Class Convention, you know how much fun it was to meet over 300 attendees from other major glass collecting clubs and share their enthusiasm and their glass.

You won't want to miss this one. At least nine glass clubs from across the nation will gather for a three-day event next summer. It will be bigger, better and have special events sponsored by NAGC for our members as well as run concurrently with the wonderful Hoosier Antique Show.

Caution: The reserved hotel rooms will run out *very fast*. We urge you to book your rooms NOW. If you end up not coming, you can cancel your reservation without penalty until July 7, 2015.

HOTEL: Sheraton Indianapolis at Keystone Crossing, 8787 Keystone Crossing, Indianapolis, IN

RESERVATIONS: 1-888-627-7814

HOTEL WEBSITE: www.sheratonindianapoliskeystonecrossing.com

PROMOTION CODE: Glass 2015 Mega Convention

SPECIAL RATE: \$99 per night for four nights (arrive 7/8/15, depart 7/12/15) plus taxes (or \$116 including taxes), free parking, in-room Internet \$9.95 per night (free in hotel public areas). Rooms are fully cancellable/refundable until July 7, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. No refunds after that.

Here are preliminary highlights for NAGC members:

- A NAGC visit to the Kokomo Opalescent Glass Factory Tour. Kokomo claims to be the oldest glass factory in the US at 126 years young. It was a major supplier of stained glass to the Tiffany Studios.
- A NAGC visit to Indianapolis Museum of Art, including a docent-lead tour, to see its spectacular Tiffany window and other exhibits

- Admission to the Hoosier Antique Show which opens Friday, July 10, in Indianapolis
- Mega Convention seminar speakers booked to date include our own Mary Cheek Mills, CMoG's Jill Thomas-Clark, Jeffrey Evans of Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates, and Dean Six of the Museum of American Glass in West Virginia
- An all glass auction on Thursday evening, with Rick Pence and Tom Burns

Your registration fee includes all NAGC and Mega Convention events, transportation to Kokomo and the Indianapolis Museum of Art, lunch on Thursday, and banquets on both Friday and Saturday evenings

The 2015 Glass Mega-Convention website is www.mega-glassconvention.info Watch *Shards* for information as it comes in and mark your calendars now. This will be a fun, interesting and exciting event—don't miss it!

To our surprise, the trip to Austria and the Czech Republic has not filled up yet. So if you are thinking of going with us, please make a positive decision and let us know soon. To encourage more travelers, we have decided to let non-NAGC members come with

us, so if you have friends who are interested, but are not members, please let them know. The cost of the trip is \$4390 and it's a great way to see all of the glass in the two countries as well as other sights.



DECEMBER 1, 2014
DEADLINE
NEXT ISSUE'S

visit NAGC web page:
www.glassclub.org

ATTENTION READERS!
The next deadline for the *Glass Shards* will be
December 1, 2014. Submit by mail to:
Alice Saville, Editor, *Glass Shards*
30 Honey Suckle Rd., Lake Forest, IL 60045
or reach us by e-mail at: planetlicesaville@gmail.com



The National American
Glass Club
P. O. Box 474
Apalachin, NY 13732