



Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Spring 2009

Radiant Survey of Studio Glass

"Voices of Contemporary Glass: The Heineman Collection" a new survey of one of the largest and finest collections of contemporary studio glass in the United States will open at The Corning Museum of Glass on May 16, 2009. Part of a year-long series of contemporary glass exhibitions and programming at the Museum, *Voices of Contemporary Glass* will present 240 works in glass by 87 international artists.

The exhibit will showcase the collection donated to the Museum in 2006 by Ben W. Heineman, Sr. and his wife, Natalie G. Heineman. Mr. Heineman collected with a discerning eye, thoughtfully assembling a grouping of works that represents the full breadth of a defining period in contemporary glassmaking. He was intrigued by the extraordinary potential of the material to take on a broad range of expressions and forms. Although interested in all kinds of art in glass, he was drawn primarily to works that explored abstraction and color.

The exhibition at the Corning Museum features video interviews with a selection of artists represented in the Heineman Collection, exploring their individual ideas, or "voices," in glass. This multitude of voices and perspectives celebrates the infinite possibilities of glass as a medium for contemporary vessels and sculpture, and documents the ongoing process of discovery and innovation that has shaped the story of the Studio Glass movement.

"The Heineman Collection reflects the remarkable achievements made in studio glass over the past 35 years," said David Whitehouse, the Corning Museum's executive director. "The collection is distinguished by

its in-depth focus on a key group of individuals whose work has been influential to artists working in glass worldwide. The exhibition explores the appeal of glass and its essence as a creative medium for artists of all backgrounds. At the Museum, visitors can always experience the energy of artists at work but, this year, the artists will be even more present."

Throughout the summer, Museum visitors will be able to participate in gallery tours led by artists who teach at the Museum's glassmaking school, The Studio, such as Paul Stankard, Amy Rueffert and Gianni Toso. Daily live demonstrations by Corning Museum glassmakers will help visitors



***Red/Amber Sliced Descending Form,*
Harvey K. Littleton
(American, b. 1922)**

understand many of the techniques behind the works on view in *Voices of Contemporary Glass*, and guests will be able to make their own glass in hands-on experiences.

"This extensive collection allows us to present the story of studio glassmaking, and to examine the variety of ways in which artists have used glass to find their artistic voices," said Tina Oldknow, curator of modern

glass and of the exhibition. "The exceptional compilation of objects displayed in the exhibition documents a remarkable material and a deeply introspective process of working that helps to explain the often indefinable, but always captivating, allure of glass."

The Heineman Collection nearly completely documents the chronology of the American Studio Glass movement, with objects dating from 1969 to 2005, and it presents the work of several artists over the course of their careers. Highlights of the exhibition include:

Architectonic sculptures by Thomas Patti, who pioneered the exploration of industrial and architectural glass as a sculptural medium.

Blown vessels by Lino Tagliapietra, considered to be the world's foremost glassblower and one whose influence has had a lasting impact on American studio glass.

Glass sculptures evoking elements of architecture and industry by Howard Ben Tré, who led the way in the use of cast glass as a sculptural medium in the United States.

A rare group of "Navajo Blanket" cylinders blown in the mid-1970s by the internationally recognized artist, Dale Chihuly.

Iconic sculptures by the acknowledged "fathers" of American studio glass, Harvey K. Littleton and Dominick Labino, who, in 1962, introduced the first studio-sized glass furnace that enabled glassworking to move outside of a factory environment, launching the American Studio Glass movement.

Voices of Contemporary Glass, which runs through January 3, 2010, will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalog of the collection by Tina Oldknow.

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Information and registration for our 25th NAGC Seminar, April 30 – May 3, 2009, Philadelphia, PA, was mailed to the Membership the third week of February. The mailing also included the 2009 Election Ballot as well as Notice of Amendment to By-laws. If the mailing did not reach your home, feel welcome to contact Bill Thomas, our Seminar Chair, (410) 538-5558, email www.holpromo@yahoo.com or Co-Chair Gay Taylor, (609) 226-6112, www.glecleiretaylor@comcast.net

All members, whether registering for the Seminar, or not, are urged to vote in the 2009 Election of Officers and Directors. Please take a moment to mark your ballot and mail as noted at the bottom.

Chuck Goding is chairing the Chapter Liaison Committee, one of the Standing Committees named by our Board of Directors last October. The Board's intent is to facilitate communication and foster dialogue between National and Chapters as well as among the Chapters.

It is also a pleasure to report that Jim Davidson, a member of our Baltimore Chapter, moved into our Membership Chair effective March 1, 2009. We welcome Jim as both a new, and now an active NAGC Member. Jim's email is secretary44@gmail.com or (410) 838-2556.

The Board of Directors is seeking an auditor to review NAGC books and financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009. My guess is that the books and statements will be available for audit near the end of April, 2009. I shall welcome a call, (201) 261-7638, or email maynardsteiner@earthlink.net.

I do hope that you are planning to join our gathering in Philadelphia for our 2009 Seminar.

'til later,
Larry Steiner

Miriam Ehlert Mucha, Expert on Glass, Past President of NEAGC dies at 87

Miriam Ehlert Mucha's radiant spirit took flight from this world on Monday morning, 16th February 2009, Portland, Oregon.

As the wife of Robert H. Mucha, a career Air Force officer with whom she shared, until his death, 62 of her 87 years, she traveled much of the world, making lifelong friends from coast to coast and abroad and developing what would become an enduring passion for the study and collecting of glass, particularly French lacy pressed glass.

Her long and varied career in the museum world began at Bellingrath Gardens, Theodore, AL, where she served as a guide from 1962-65. In 1967, following her taking her BA, Department of Fine Arts & History, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., she began two years' service as a docent at the DeYoung Museum, San Francisco, CA.

Upon her husband's retirement from the Air Force and their settling in Langhorne, PA, Miriam joined the Philadelphia Museum of Art as a docent. For much of her 30 year association with the PMA, she served as Special Assistant, American Art Department, during which time one of her most notable accomplishments was the coordinating and overseeing of the reinstallation of The George H. Lorimer Collection of American and European Glass.

Other museums and glass study/collecting organizations with which Miriam enjoyed long and active relationships include: The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY, which, in 1987, awarded her *The Rakow Grant for Glass Research*; WheatonArts and Cultural Center,

Millville, NJ, for whose Creative Glass Center of America Miriam once served as Trustee; The Sandwich Glass Museum, Sandwich, MA, on whose Board Miriam was sometime

Director; and both the national and her local chapter of the National American Glass Club, for which she served a term as National President.

Over the course of her life in the world of glass study and collecting, Miriam, a tireless researcher, published and delivered numerous articles and lectures.

A natural athlete, Miriam grew up in Michigan and New Jersey, swimming, skiing, and pursuing her especial love of dancing, principally ballet. Later, she would prove an avid and

talented golfer. A keen birder as well, Miriam personified both the graceful athleticism and delicate strength of the falcon and hummingbird.

Her greatest gift, however, both to her and from her, is unquestionably the many treasured friendships, whether family or "honorary" family, which she cherished during her lifetime.

An internment will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on a date to be determined. Though no acknowledgement beyond a heartfelt "godspeed" is hoped for, any further expression of gratitude for Miriam's life, work, and friendship may include a donation in her memory to any of the aforementioned worthy organizations.



Glass Calendar

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

Through the Spring 2009

BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS MUSEUM *The Danger of the Image: Glass Dresses* by Diana Dias-Leão at Compton Drive, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 9NS, Tel 01384 812745. Diana Dias-Leão has mixed her fashion background with her glass knowledge to create a collection of fantastic dresses, made from glass, ceramics and textiles. www.glass-museum.org.uk

Through April 19, 2009

KNOXVILLE MUSEUM OF ART The 35 year retrospective museum exhibit - *Josh Simpson: A Visionary Journey in Glass (1972-2007)*. The exhibit follows the career arc of this self-taught master from his early traditional pieces to the spectacular tour-de-force multi-layered works of the present. The selection of more than 100 objects from the artist's personal collection documents his fascination with undersea life, astronomy, as well as the pure process of glass blowing. The Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, TN. (865) 525-6101, 1050 World's Fair Park, Knoxville, TN 37916-1653 <http://www.knoxart.org>

Through June 14, 2009

MUSEUM OF GLASS *White Light: Glass Compositions* by Daniel Clayman is an exhibition that defies the stereotype of contemporary glass. Seven large-scale, dense, opaque sculptures comprise the exhibition and challenge viewers' perceptions of glass art. 1801 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA. 98402 (866) -4museum; museumofglass.org

Through May 10, 2009

ORLANDO MUSEUM OF ART *Stories of the New World* at 2416 North Mills Ave., Orlando, FL (407) 896-4231 info@omart.org will feature custom art installations by Therman Statom, a major figure in the Studio Glass movement. Throughout his career, Statom has pushed the boundaries of his medium - challenging his audience to look at glass in new and interesting ways.

March 28 & 29, 2009

ALL-HEISEY SHOW & SALE, Gaithersburg, MD. 39th Annual Premiere Glass Show sponsored by the Northern Virginia Heisey Study Club, 169 W. Church St., Newark, OH 43055. (740) 345-2932 www.heisey-museum.org Featuring 40 prominent elegant glass dealers from across the US at the OSUN/COTC Campus, Country Club Drive, Newark, OH 30 miles east of Columbus off Rt.16. Sponsored by Heisey Collectors of America, Inc. in conjunction with 38th HCA National Convention "*Artistry in Glass: the Heisey Etchings*"

March 28 - April 19, 2009

WHEATON ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER, 1501 Glasstown Rd., Millville, NJ. 08332 (800) 998-4552 "*Contemporary Flamework*" The Gallery annually displays works at Salem Community College by the featured artists of the college's International Flameworking Conference. This exhibit and sale will include works by Shane Fero (Feature Artist), Paul Stankard, Stankard Studio, Robert Mickelsen, Milon Townsend, Caitlin & Marshall Hyde, Emilio Santini, Janis Miltenberger, Elizabeth Mears, Suelen Fowler, Gateson Recko, Bandhu Dunham, and Steve Sizelove. The work will range from unique goblets and perfume bottles to one-of-a-kind sculptures. www.wheatonarts.org

April 18 & 19, 2009

33rd Annual COLLECTORS GLASS SHOW & SALE Sponsored by the Westchester Glass Club. Greenwich Civic Center, Old Greenwich, CT. Special Presentation by Rod Elser "*The Effect of Gamma Radiation on Old Glass*" Show features Glass repair, Identification booth, Luncheon and afternoon tea. (973) 763-4525

April 25 - May 31, 2009

WHEATON ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER, 1501 Glasstown Rd., Millville, NJ. 08332 (800) 998-4552 "*Paul Stankard and Stankard Studio Exhibition*" Paul Stankard celebrates a 37 year association with Wheaton Arts. With this exhibit Paul unveils his most recent work in addition to early work from the 1970s and 1980s. These earlier works include simplistic floral

designs inside clear or transparent color backgrounds. Some earlier pieces are faceted with windows reminiscent of the traditional French style paperweights. Paul's new work will include exciting new orb designs. In addition to Paul Stankard's glass, the work of Stankard Studio will be exhibited. Stankard Studio continues the Stankard legacy in glass as well as building on the South Jersey glass tradition with a new generation of artists. Stankard Studio is comprised of his three daughters, Katherine Stankard Campbell, Pauline Stankard Iacovino, Christine Stankard Kressley. Stankard Studio work. www.wheatonarts.org

May 2, 2009

WEST VIRGINIA MARBLE FESTIVAL will be held in the Community Building in Cairo, WV. Activities may include: Marble identification & games Marble making history, Show & Sales of antique, collectible and new marbles. This includes both machine-made and hand-made marbles. WVMuseumofGlass@aol.com The National Marble Museum c/o The Museum of American Glass, PO Box 574, Weston, WV 26452-0574 (304) 269-5006

May 30, 2009

THE MUSEUM OF CONNECTICUT GLASS 5th Annual outdoor (rain or shine) Antiques, Glass & Bottles Show & Sale will be held May 30, 2009 on the grounds of the historic Coventry (CT) Glass Factory within the National Register's only Glass Factory District. Early admission at 8am (\$15). Regular admission at 9am (\$3). Show ends at 1 pm. Limited spaces. Prestigious buyers. Contact Show Chair Jan Ratushny, PO Box 242, Eastford CT 06242, (860) 428-4585 or e-mail: janratushny@aol.com Noel Tomas, Museum President LSAMOT@cox.net

Edith Lawson Remembered

The glass collecting community lost a long-time and a charismatic member on February 9th with the passing of Edie Lawson of Providence, RI. Ms. Lawson, age 80, had been traveling in New Zealand when she was diagnosed with cancer and flown back to the U.S. for surgery. She died at home one week later, surrounded by her loving family.

Ms. Lawson and her late husband John were active members of the Founders Chapter. Their interest in glass originated with John's grandmother, Mrs. E. H. Bristol, who, in 1933, was enrolled as a Charter Member of the glass club. John's mother, Marion R. (Bristol) Lawson, was elected the ninth president of the club in 1950, and Edie followed in her mother-in-law's footsteps when she became president of the Founders Chapter in 1996. John and Edie hosted several delightful gatherings of the



Founders Chapter in their Providence home; events that were memorable for their conviviality and for the glorious profusion of glass piled artfully on every flat surface.

Edie was a regular participant in club meetings. Chapter membership chair Pearl Brimmer stated succinctly "she always came through for us."

Edie led the "My Summer Finds" program last October, and at the November meeting she surprised and delighted everyone with her rendition of "Danny Boy," sung to accompany musician Vera Meyer's performance on the glass harmonica. She was a regular participant at seminars and on trips sponsored by the glass club, the Corning Museum of Glass, the Mt. Washington & Pairpoint Glass Society and the Sandwich Glass Museum. She also served on the Boards of numerous non-profit organizations, and during the past several years worked

tirelessly to help establish a new glass museum in New Bedford, MA.

Fifty-eight years ago the Glass Club Bulletin published a remembrance of John Lawson's grandmother, stating that "Many members owe their success in collecting authentic pieces to her [knowledge]..., and memories of her graciousness will always remain." Edie Lawson perpetuated this family tradition. She was an inquisitive learner, a vibrant teacher, a cherished friend and a true patron of the arts. Edie had the courage to be exceptional, to always speak her mind, and to make a positive difference in the lives of the people around her.

The Lawson family has requested that donations in her memory be made to the New Bedford Museum of Glass, 46 No. Water St., New Bedford, MA 02740
www.nbmog.org

Corning Museum of Glass: *These Are a Few of Our Favorite Things*

An assemblage of luminous, bright white icons of modernist glass design, a ghostly, life-size figure in an evening dress, and a dramatic red, cast-glass pyramid seemingly lit from within: these are among the art works that have captivated visitors to The Corning Museum of Glass and are three of 41 contemporary glass objects featured in the upcoming exhibition, *Favorites from the Contemporary Glass Collection*. This survey of audience favorites will be on view at the Museum from March 2009 through January 3, 2010. Corning Museum of Glass, One Museum Way, Corning, NY. (607) 937-5371
www.cmog.org

"Many visitors come to the Museum anticipating that they will see Venetian masterpieces and examples of ancient Greek and Roman glassmaking, and are surprised to also discover an extraordinary variety of contemporary works," says David Whitehouse, the Museum's executive director. "The sheer volume and scale of many of the works in the exhibition, as well as the astonishing variety of forms, color, and techniques represented, underscore the allure of contemporary

glass sculpture."

To identify the visitor favorites, the Museum surveyed its education staff, docents, security guards, and others who interact with visitors on



While You Are Sleeping
 Christina Bothwell (American, b. 1960)

a daily basis. The selections range from a painting-inspired still life in glass by Beth Lipman and a sculpture of carrots preserved in a Pyrex tube by Donald Lipski, to Kiki Smith's Steuben vase, engraved with tattoos, and a family portrait comprised of "molecular" forms by artist Jill Reynolds.

"This exhibition brings together some of my favorite objects, as well as the art works that are repeatedly singled out by our visitors. People

are drawn to contemporary glass for the unexpected expressions that they discover are possible in the material, by the versatility and skill of the artists, and by the beauty of the objects," said Tina Oldknow, curator of modern glass. "The artists represented in Favorites take an innovative approach to the medium, and their work conveys a freshness of thought. I hope that these objects will surprise the visitors who have not yet seen them, and that our visitors who know the collection will enjoy seeing some of their favorite pieces in a different kind of presentation."

The exhibition is part of a larger year-long series of contemporary glass exhibitions. The major 2009 exhibition, *Voices of Contemporary Glass*, will showcase the 240 objects, by 87 international artists, that constitute the Heineman Collection, one of the largest and finest private collections of contemporary studio glass in the United States, donated to the Museum in 2005 by Ben W. Heineman Sr. and his wife, Natalie G. Heineman.

Glass Engravers at Sandwich Museum

The Sandwich Glass Museum proudly presents “*Two Generations of Glass Engravers, Cutters and Sculptors*” - Edward and James Poore. These two well-known artists, father and son, are passionate about their work.



Edward Poore (sitting behind his son James in the photo above) is the proprietor of The Crystal Workshop and has 35 years of experience in the field of glass restoration and engraving. He is an artist in the cutting and engraving of glass and paperweights. His expertise makes him sought after as a lecturer wherever glass collectors gather. Trained at Pairpoint Glass Works under the tutelage of Carl Schweidenback, Mr. Poore has been entrusted with cutting paperweights for some of America's finest craftsmen.

James Poore was immersed in glass at a very young age, as long as he can remember. He started his amazing career in his father's studio “The Crystal Workshop” when he was 20 years old. First learning in the polishing room, polishing paperweight bottoms, rims and feet of stemware,



then later advancing into cutting and general repair of antique glass. His father taught him to only do the best work he could, and to treat every piece as if it were his own, always emphasizing on the highest quality work. Many of his designs are inspired by nature.

The exhibit is on now through March 31, 2009. Sandwich Glass Museum, 129 Main Street, Sandwich MA 02563 (508) 888-0251
www.sandwichglassmuseum.org

Reflections of Glass on Water and the Botanical Garden

The exhibition on now through April 30, 2009 at the McKee Botanical Garden in Vero Beach, FL, showcases the fusion of art and nature, with 170 glass sculptures creatively displayed with the Garden's lush tropical vegetation and picturesque ponds as the backdrop.

In *Reflection of Glass on Water* Hans Godo Frabel, the world's most famous flamework glass artist and avid gardener, is continuously inspired by nature and the world around him.

All exhibitions, like the botanical garden in Vero Beach, are unique to their surrounding environments. With the *Reflections of Glass on Water* exhibition, Frabel utilizes McKee's unique vegetation and beautiful waterscapes to optimally display his amazing glass sculptures and large installations.

Frabel was so impressed with McKee Botanical Garden that he decided to introduce some incredible new installations to his botanical garden exhibition inspired by, and especially for, McKee Botanical Garden. Since the Garden has a strong focus on Water Lilies and Lotus flowers, Frabel let himself be inspired by these amazing flowers to create a number of extraordinary Water Lily and Lotus sculptures.

Frabel created several large compositions, specifically for the water settings at McKee Botanical Garden, such as the “Aces and Deuces, Jokers Wild” sculpture that consists of 13 jokers, balancing on playing cards. This sculpture is a symbolic expression of life's journeys through ups and downs, highs and lows. It shows the risks and challenges we face and the gambles we have to make in our lives. Further in this

line, Frabel created 15 large clowns on large spheres, entitled “Balancing”. Frabel tries to tell his story to

enjoy life like these clowns, as if it is one big carnival. These clowns, balancing on large colorful floating spheres, compliment the beauty of the ponds at McKee Botanical Garden and reflect delightfully into the water. Since the beginning of the Frabel Studio in 1968, flowers and plants have formed an important part of the Studio's realistic art repertoire.

Flowers like the Lily,

Dogwood, Cherokee Rose and various Orchids were recreated in realistic fashion using borosilicate glass. Wielding his creative expression, Frabel has designed glass botanicals, interpreting the essence of plant life while displaying the magic and irresistible beauty of glass.

This exhibition is the largest flamework glass art exhibition ever held in a botanical garden anywhere in the world and is orga-

nized by McKee Botanical Garden in cooperation with Hans Godo Frabel.

McKee Botanical Garden is proud to host internationally this renowned artist Hans Godo Frabel and his Glass Art collection. The exhibition will run through April, 2009. Stunning crystal glass sculptures – 170 in all – will be creatively displayed within McKee Botanical Garden's lush setting, with special emphasis on integrating the Garden ponds and waterways.

More information at McKee Botanical Garden, 350 US Highway 1, Vero Beach, FL 32962, (772) 794-060
<http://mckeeegarden.org>



Research, Publication & Glass News

Whimsey Club Newsletter

"Hello Glasshouse Whimsey Collectors. The second issue of the reborn *Whimsey Club Newsletter* is now available on line. The next issue will come out in March. Please consider submitting something! Jeff & Mary Waterhouse, jwaterac@aol.com; <http://www.whimsey.org>
What are Whimsies?

Glass House Whimsies are non-production glass items made by the glass workers on their own time, possibly for their own use and enjoyment, or to demonstrate their ability with glass, or as a special presentation item.

Glass House Whimsies are often referred to as "End-of-Day" items. This terminology implies that the items have various colors because they were made with the scraps of glass left over at the end of the workday. Example would include canes, darners, rolling pins and many more from gavels to turtles!"

New Direction for Green Valley Auctions

President/Senior Auctioneer Jeffrey S. and wife Beverley A. Evans have relinquished their interests in Green Valley Auctions, the family business in Mt. Crawford, VA that Jeff inherited in 1979. Jeff's brother Gregory L. Evans is now sole owner of the auction house and will continue to offer general estate auctions at the current location, but the specialty/catalog division that Jeff Evans has guided to national and international recognition since 1995 has been withdrawn from the company.

Jeff and Beverley are excited to announce that they have established their new business, *Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates* effective January 1, 2009.

<http://www.jeffreysevens.com>

Under this new company, Jeff Evans will continue to conduct the cataloged specialty glass, lighting, antiques, Americana and decorative arts auctions that have produced numerous record auction prices for Green Valley Auctions over the years and brought national acclaim

to the auction house, and to Evans himself. Since successfully entering the world of live Internet bidding in 2007, Evans' cataloged auctions have received enormous international exposure, with material sold to customers in more than 30 foreign countries. Future auctions will be presented through LiveAuctioneers.com, which will allow Internet buyers to participate "live" in real time during the auction, or by absentee bid. Stating that he sees this as a "win-win" situation for everyone involved, Evans explained, "We will be able to add additional cataloged auctions to our schedule and Greg will be able to conduct his biweekly auctions without interruption. The catalog division of Green Valley Auctions has grown tremendously over the past 10 years, so from a business standpoint, the time was right for a separation."

First Class

DEADLINE
NEXT ISSUE'S
JUNE 1, 2009

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<http://www.glassclub.org>

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The next deadline for the Glass Shards will be
June 1, 2009. Submit by mail to:
Alice Walsh, Editor, Glass Shards, PO Box 255
Foxborough, MA 02035
or reach us through email at: aswalsh@comcast.net



The National
American Glass Club
Box 489
Millburn, NJ 07041

