

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Summer 2024

Chapter News

Westchester Glass Club

The Westchester Glass Club (WGC) was honored to host speaker Leslie Keno at their May 2024 meeting in Somers, New York. Mr. Keno is well known by his many appearances as a furniture appraiser on the PBS series *Antiques Roadshow* and on the FOX Network series *Buried Treasures*. Leslie and his twin brother, Leigh, co-authored the book, *Hidden Treasures: Searching for Masterpieces of American Furniture*. Leslie also served as director of American furniture and decorative arts at Sotheby's for 34 years.

Leslie mesmerized the WGC members in attendance and those on Zoom with his engaging stories of how he and his brother, thanks to their parents' love of antiques, quickly gained knowledge and a keen sense of where to look for treasures, beginning their fascination with the hunt for antique treasures. They found an abundance

of them in and around their rural New York home, including early American stoneware, furniture, and hardware. Leslie spoke of digging behind their antique house finding a beautiful large multi-colored swirl glass marble and many bottles and other artifacts that got older as he dug deeper. Leslie also related a wonderful story of one of his favorite *Antiques Roadshow* appraisals of an 18th-century gaming table made by the famous Boston cabinet maker John Seymour. The table was discovered at a tag sale for \$25 and later



Leslie Keno.

sold at auction for \$530,000—a true “hidden treasure” for the tag sale buyer. In telling this story, Leslie taught WGC members the importance of doing your homework and looking carefully at details—treasures can be found!

Following his fascinating talk, Leslie graciously participated in our members' show and tell of recent finds, a favored activity at every meeting. Leslie answered all our questions and told further stories of antique hunting, including finding a very special early American glass piece with a bird finial on the series *Buried Treasures*.

The Westchester Glass Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Somers, New York. For more information, contact Bruce Mitchell (Lfranz465@hotmail.com) or Jim Russell (jRussell9431@sbcglobal.net) or on our website (www.westchester-glassclub.com).

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Founders Chapter

The Founders' Chapter met for its annual luncheon in May, graciously hosted by Karen and Vaughn Petraglia in Manchester, New Hampshire. Verne Orlosk, owner of StudioVerne in Manchester, spoke about her work with fused glass. She has done this work for 24 years, first at the Currier Museum.

The glass is fired in a kiln which tends to render the glass into a two-dimensional product. Using large pieces of glass and frit she buys from a glassmaker in Portland, Oregon, Verne then creates three-dimensional pieces of art that are painted with fine frit and combines color and texture to complete her vision. Verne brought

samples of her materials and examples of how glass changes in the kiln and an assortment of finished pieces. These original designs made from glass powder are typically displayed in shadow box frames with glass in the back to capture light.

Whimsical New Exhibit

Centuries of Tomfoolery: Trick Glasses, Pipes, and Whimsical Delights is now on view through December 29, 2024 at the Museum of American Glass at WheatonArts. Through the centuries, glassmakers have skillfully crafted vessels, pipes, and whimsical objects for communal entertainment. Whether intricately designed or deceptively simple, these devices reveal the ingenuity of glassmakers and their significant role in facilitating pleasurable social activities. Curator Mary Mills uses a series of vignettes and videos to present a fascinating group of objects through the lens of working artists who are compelled to recreate clever glassblowing feats from the past and push the boundaries of contemporary functional art.

The exhibition includes work by William Gudenrath and Marc Barreda, who use historically accurate techniques to replicate rare early European trick glasses. Some are shaped like boots, guns, horns, or fanciful animals, while others produce obnoxious noises or optical illusions. In contrast to the

delicate historical work, Grace Whiteside, a former Netflix *Blown Away* contestant, explores the concept of trick glasses through bold oversized designs and a rich color palette.

Whimsical archaeological artifacts, including Jacob's ladders and flip-flops, are displayed with modern renditions that link South Jersey's past with other cultures. The exhibit features a significant *schnapshund* (liquor dog). Although a common German form, this example has been attributed to Wistarburg Glass Works, America's first commercially successful glass factory. The little green glass dog belonged to the granddaughter of Caspar Wistar, who opened the glassworks in South Jersey in 1739. For generations, the *schnapshund* has been in the collection of Philadelphia's Wyck Historic House and Garden, the ancestral home of Wistar's wife.

Pipe smoking for rituals or recreation is one of the oldest communal activities. During the post-Vietnam era of the late 1970s, functional glass pipes emerged as "paraphernalia."



Group of modern-day trick glasses.

Once relegated to headshops and subculture markets, pipes are now respected at top museums. Their sculptural quality and technical brilliance often obscure their functionality.

The exhibit explores the creativity and personality of early glassmakers while demonstrating the skill and imagination needed to craft such inventive objects.

WHEATONARTS
1501 Glasstown Road
Millville, NJ 08332
www.wheatonarts.org
(856) 825-6800

Poland's Vibrant Glass Scene

Ten years ago, the Glasmuseum first invited Polish artists associated as graduates or teachers with the renowned Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław, a prominent school for art glass in Poland, to exhibit.

In spring 2023, museum staff visited the academy's glass department again. They encountered a state-of-the-art creative workshop in a spacious new building, equipped with technical infrastructure of a high standard, providing ideal conditions for training students. Thanks to the broad array of equipment students learn all the various techniques for working with glass in its hot or cold state, including blowing, fusing, lampwork, glass painting, cutting, engraving, architectural glass, and restoration.



Infantuaione. Pati Dubiel, 2022 (photo: Anna Huzarska).

Impressed with these training conditions and the resulting artworks, the museum invited representatives from the school to exhibit. World-renowned lecturers, graduates, and students from the glass department at the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design will present about 50 works in this show (on view from August through October 2024). The art demonstrates a command of the various glassmaking techniques some breaking with tradition in order to come up with something new.

GLASMUSEUM LETTE
Letter Berg 38
48653 Coesfeld-Lette
Germany
info@glasmuseum-lette.de
www.glasmuseum-lette.de

President's Letter

Dear NAGC Members:

I hope this finds you enjoying the many glass club seminars, shows, and conventions that mark the beginning of summer. I recently spoke at the Old Morgantown Glass Collector's Guild in West Virginia. These shows are wonderful opportunities to collect with friends, see amazing glass, and learn from experts. Of course, I took a few treasures home with me as well.

News from the National—you may be hearing from Peggy Hooper who

is heading up the NAGC Nominating Committee. She is looking to build the new team of officers and bring energy and enthusiasm to the NAGC as we look to our 100-year anniversary in 2033! If you have ideas for her, please reach out to Peggy at president@founderschapter.org. For those who have shared emails with the National, you will now get updates on how and when to pay your dues, balloting for officers, and general planning by email. Every national club I belong to (at least 7!) now

communicates with their members through email. It is faster and more efficient and a proven way for us to stay in touch. Rest assured, we will preserve your privacy. But I hope you find this to be a benefit and a new way to stay in touch with the NAGC.

Best wishes for sunny summer days!
Anne Madarasz
President, NAGC

Now at Corning

Encompassing almost three decades of work in 40 mixed-media glass sculptures, *Collidoscope: de la Torre Brothers Retro-Perspective* (through January 25, 2025) highlights the brothers' artistic production. The art, like the unique and ever-changing view through a kaleidoscope, employs concepts of time, religion, tradition, regional distinctions, and personal experiences that expand perceptions of cultural identity.

Born in Guadalajara, Mexico, Einar and Jamex de la Torre moved to the United States as children and have collaborated artistically since the 1990s. Today, they live and work on both sides of the border, splitting their time between San Diego, California,

and the Guadalupe Valley of Baja California, Mexico.

"The complexities of the immigrant experience and contradicting bicultural identities, as well as our current life and practice on both sides of the border, really propel our narrative and aesthetics," Einar de la Torre said. The pair also cites religious iconography, German expressionism, and Mexican vernacular arts as influencing factors in their work.

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS
One Museum Way
Corning, NY 14830
www.cmog.org
(800) 732-6845

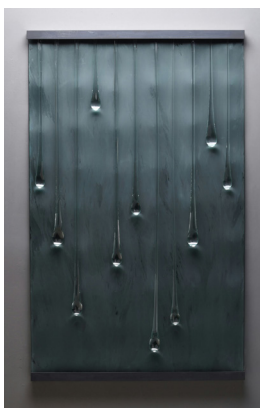


;2020!. Einar and Jamex de la Torre, 2020
(photo courtesy of Koplín Del Rio Gallery).

Inspired by Nature

A wonderful contemporary glass object by artist Kathleen Mulcahy is currently on view until January 20, 2025, in the exhibit *A Woman's Place: How Women Shaped Pittsburgh*, at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh.

The piece features bent glass, metal, and hand-formed glass drops. It is part of a series Mulcahy created after experiencing a fast-moving rainstorm on the Susquehanna River while kayaking with friends. It inspired her to create work drawn from that moment as nature overtook her world, then receded,



The West Branch. Kathleen Mulcahy.

leaving her changed. Mulcahy tinted, bent and shaped the glass, then individually formed each drop at the Pittsburgh Glass Center, where she has served as the long-time artistic director. Kathleen describes the glass art as, "the verb of my work revealed through the primal form of a drop."

HEINZ HISTORY CENTER
1212 Smallman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 454-6000
www.heinzhistorycenter.org

Untamed: The Anatomy of Desire

Bri Chesler is an artist known for her innovative approach, blending various glass techniques with other media. Drawing inspiration from her upbringing in the swamps of Florida, she incorporates the chaotic elements of nature into her art, fusing biology and botany to create forms that seduce and engage her audience. Chesler, a 2019 Pilchuck Emerging Artist-in-Residence, a 2020 Hauberg Fellow, and a recipient of the Saxe Emerging Artist Award in 2021, worked as an instructor at Pilchuck Glass School in 2022 and was selected for a residency at Museum of Glass.

Untamed: The Anatomy of Desire (August 17, 2024–Spring 2025) will feature works created during Chesler's 2022 residency as well as work made between 2018–2023 and will include multiple large-scale multimedia installations. These eye-catching sculptures are meant to evoke a deep emotional response, exploring the multifaceted nature of human behavior and desire.

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



Bruised Brute. Bri Chesler, 2020.

Exhibition Recognizes Native American and Indigenous, Pacific-Rim Glass Artists

In honor of the museum's 100th anniversary and to continue its commitment to presenting the myriad of voices that make up the American experience, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts presents the exhibition *Clearly Indigenous: Native Visions Reimagined in Glass*, on view until August 18, 2024. The exhibition gives broader and overdue recognition to a wide range of contemporary Native American and Indigenous, Pacific-Rim glass artists. The importance, rarity, and

excellence of this milestone event are not to be missed. *Clearly Indigenous* includes nearly 100 glassworks created by 29 Native American artists, four Pacific Rim artists from New Zealand and Australia, along with selections from leading glass artist Dale Chihuly. Chihuly was a part of a collaboration between the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) that resulted in establishing a glass program and a hot shop for the IAIA.

The exhibition embodies the intellectual content of Native traditions, newly illuminated by the unique properties that can only be achieved by working with glass. Whether reinterpreting traditional stories and designs or expressing contemporary issues affecting Indigenous societies, Indigenous artists have created content-laden bodies of work using glass as a medium. *Clearly Indigenous* demonstrates the generations of Indigenous artists who have and continue to investigate the expressive properties of glassmaking. Among the artists included in this seminal exhibition are Larry Ahvakana (Inupiat), Dan Friday (Lummi), Carol Lujan (Diné), Robert "Spooner" Marcus (Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo), Lillian Pitt (Warm Springs, Wasco, Yakama), and Preston Singletery (Tlingit).

Melt: Prayers for the People and the Planet. Angela Babby, 2019.



KALAMAZOO INSTITUTE
OF ARTS
314 S. Park St,
Kalamazoo MI 49007
(269) 349-7775
<https://kiarts.org>

Glass Calendar

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

Through September 8, 2024

Feathered Friends: Birds in Glass

Through January 26, 2025

Perthshire Paperweights

BERGSTROM-MAHLER

MUSEUM OF GLASS

165 N. Park Ave.

Neenah, Wisconsin 54956

(920) 751-4658

www.bmmglass.com



Double Crane Magnum paperweight. Danny Salazar, 2008.

Feathered Friends features artistic representations in glass of birds from across the world. From Antarctic penguins to Baltimore orioles, birds have provided inspiration for artists throughout history. Includes sculpture and paperweights from contemporary artists such as Rene Lalique, Marc Petrovic, Robin Grebe, Stephen Hodder, Rick Ayotte, and Shane Fero.

*

Perthshire Paperweights features one-of-a-kind examples of Perthshire paperweights and related items. Some of the examples served as prototypes for later designs while others were created to commemorate an event or memorialize an individual. Synonymous with contemporary Scottish glass, Perthshire Paperweights was founded in 1968 by Stuart Drysdale who hoped to preserve the classic

designs of antique millefiori paperweights produced by the French factories of Baccarat, Clichy, and St. Louis.

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Through November 2, 2024

SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM

Heartbeats and Harmony: Individual and Collaborative Works by Bob Dane and Carl Lopes

129 Main St.

Sandwich, MA 02563

(508) 888-0251

<https://sandwichglassmuseum.org>

Explore works that celebrate the profound influence of African music, rhythm, and imagery on our collective human culture. Carl Lopes' mixed material paintings pay tribute to African heritages with vibrant colors and striking designs.

Robert Dane draws inspiration drawn from the Italian tradition of glassblowing while his studio, Heath Brook Studio, reflects a distinctly American flavor.



Collaborative work of Bob Dane and Carl Lopes.

* * * *

September 5, 2024–January 19, 2025

CHRYSLER MUSEUM OF ART

Peter Bremers: Ice to Water

One Memorial Place

Norfolk, VA 23510

(757) 664-6200

<https://chrysler.org>



Melting Glacier I. Peter Bremers, 2023.

Peter Bremers is celebrated around the world for his monumental, abstract cast glass sculptures. The exhibition debuts new work by the artist, influenced by his journeys to Iceland and his meditations on the glaciers that are vanishing due to changes in our global climate. It features 18 sculptures inspired by the natural world displayed alongside photographic images that the artist captured during his explorations of these changing landscapes.

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October 12, 2024

THE MUSEUM OF CONNECTICUT GLASS

Coventry Tailgate Bottle, Glass,

and Stoneware Show

289 North River Rd.

Coventry, CT 06238

(860) 633-2944

www.glassmuseum.org

More than 30 dealers featuring glass, antique bottles, and stoneware. There will also be an open house and tours of the historic 1812 Captain Turner house and 1935 barn.

For more information, contact Greg Mills at (203) 271-1181 or email at disposable1521@att.net.

Annual Seminar on Glass at Corning

The 62nd Annual Seminar on Glass is a two-day virtual program complementing the special exhibition *Sensorium: Stories of Glass and Fragrance* which opens in September. The program is scheduled for October 22–23, 2024, and will bring together scholars, artists, and perfumers to consider the intimate relationship between glass and scent across history.

From the beginnings of glassmaking, glass vessels were created to hold and diffuse fragrance and designers still use glass today to cradle luxurious perfumes. The Seminar will foster conversation between the glass and perfume worlds, with presenters exploring the sensory functions of glass vessels as well as the broader cultural histories of scented materials.



Perfume bottles. Friedrich Egermann (photo courtesy Corning Museum of Glass).

Between sessions, registrants will enjoy a virtual tour of *Sensorium* led by Julie Bellemare, Curator of Early Modern Glass and exhibition curator. The event is free, though registration is required.

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS
One Museum Way
Corning, NY 14830
www.cmog.org
(800) 732-6845

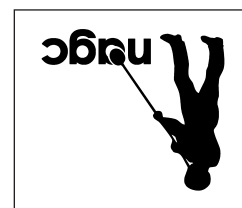
SEPTMBER 1, 2024
DEADLINE
NEXT ISSUE'S

www.glassclub.org
Visit NAGC Web page:

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The next deadline for the *Glass Shards* will be
September 1, 2024
Submit news to Alice Saville, *Glass Shards* Editor, at
planetalsaville@gmail.com

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