

American Studio Glass Movement Celebrates 50 Years



2012 marks the 50th anniversary of studio glass art in America. To celebrate this milestone and recognize talented artists, the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass (AACG), a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to further the development and appreciation of art made from glass, has initiated more than 100 glass demonstrations, lectures and exhibitions that will take place in museums, galleries and art centers across the country throughout 2012.

The American Studio Glass movement began with two glass workshops held at the Toledo Museum of Art in 1962. The workshops were taught by Harvey K. Littleton, who, along with scientist Dominick Labino, introduced a small furnace built for glassworking that made it possible for individual artists to work in independent studios. Glass programs were then established by Littleton at the University of Wisconsin, at the California College of the Arts by Marvin Lipofsky, and later at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), led by artist Dale Chihuly, to name but a few.

"The golden anniversary of American glass art is the perfect opportunity to celebrate artists nationwide and showcase exquisite glass collections, as well as introduce sculpture in glass to others through education, awareness and community," said Harlan Fischer, AACG president elect. "Our goal is to energize and educate about studio glass art and we're thankful to be celebrating this art medium's first 50 years."



John Nygren, *Weeping Jewelberry Vine Vessel*, 1990, blown and hot worked glass, 7.88 x 4 x 4 inches. Gift of Sonia and Isaac Luski. Asheville Art Museum Collection.

Since 1962, glass art has become a popular and exciting medium for museums, galleries, collectors, artists, and students. One-of-a-kind glass sculptural art is found all over the United States in museums, hotels, cruise liners, botanical gardens, parks, restaurants and many other notable public spaces. So, beginning in January 2012, the year-long celebration, special events, and displays will take place

from California, Arizona and Washington, to Florida, New York and New Jersey - and everywhere in between. Each event will be a learning experience and offer the best places to see and appreciate glass art.

The Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass (AACG) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to further the development and appreciation of art made from glass. The Art Alliance informs the public, including collectors, critics and curators, by encouraging and supporting museum and art center glass exhibitions and public programs, and regional collector groups. Membership is open to anyone interested in contemporary glass.

For further information about this celebration visit (<http://contempglass.org/2012-celebration>).

Institutional Exhibitions Taking Place

The Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, NC, is presenting the exhibit, *Fire on the Mountain: Studio Glass in Western North Carolina*, on view in the East Wing Galleries through July 8, 2012.

The exhibition examines the first 30



View of the *Fire on the Mountain: Studio Glass in Western North Carolina* exhibition at the Asheville Art Museum.

years of the Studio Glass movement and its ties to the region, providing an overview of the aesthetic and technical developments of the movement and focusing upon early Studio Glass pioneers working in Western North Carolina including those who began in the 1960s through those who started their careers by the early 1990s.

Today Western North Carolina continues to provide a nurturing environment for glass students and artists. Studio glass pioneers including Mark Peiser, William Bernstein, Ken Carder and Richard Ritter, still live and work in the region and have since been joined by a host of new glass artists.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/253-3227 or visit (www.ashevilleart.org).

The Bascom in Highlands, NC, is presenting the exhibit, *Green Art*, on view in the center's Atrium Gallery, through July 8, 2012. The exhibition presents a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the American Studio Glass Movement; Harvey Littleton, its founder; and environmentally friendly art. Tracy Kirchman, a glass artist who aided in the establishment of the Jackson County Green Energy Park in Dillsboro, NC, and her students from the Little Black Pearl Glass Lab in Chicago, have created works of art from recycled glass wine bottles for this exhibition.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the center at 828/526-4949 or visit (www.TheBascom.org).



Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová, *Kiss*, 1958 - 60, gray glass melted in a mold, on loan by Lisa and Dudley Anderson of Wilson, NC. On view at SECCA in Winston-Salem, NC.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the American Studio Glass Movement, the Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, showcases a special exhibition, *Born from Fire: American Studio Glass from the Collection*, featuring more than 30 examples of glass made by leaders in the movement. *Born from Fire* is on view through Sept. 16, 2012.

The exhibition features works by Rick Beck, Ken Carder, Fritz Dreisbach, Stephen Dee Edwards, Dominick Labino, Mark Peiser, Kenny Pieper, Tommie Rush, Steven Weinberg and Brent Kee Young, among others.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 803/799-2810 or visit (www.columbiamuseum.org).

SECCA in Winston-Salem, NC, is presenting the exhibit, *Light and Space: The Sculpture of Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová*, on view through Aug. 5, 2012. The exhibit features works by Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová from the Anderson Collection.

Their relationship could have ended as a story of opposites, but instead it led to an international give-and-take between two couples - one collaborating artists and one collaborating collectors. The opposites of freedom and Communism, smooth and rough edges, polish and matte, colored and clear, narrow spaces and massive bases, filled and hollow, spiritual and stark.

These opposites exist in the spectrum of cast-glass sculptures created by Professor Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová that have been collected for more than 25 years by Lisa and Dudley Anderson.

Twenty pieces of the Andersons' collection are being featured in the exhibition.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 336/725-1904 or visit (www.secca.org).

The Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC,

center at 828/859-2828 or visit (www.upstairsartspace.org).

The Fine Art Museum at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, will present the exhibit, *North Carolina Glass 2012*, on view the Museum's Belk Gallery, from Oct. 28 - Feb. 1, 2013.

Western Carolina University has documented the development of the state's



Stephen Pon, *Water Boy, Pâte de Verre*, Kiln Cast, Hot-worked, Carved Glass, 19" h x 13" w x 13" d, on view at The Bender Gallery, Asheville, NC.

glass community in the series of invitational "North Carolina Glass" exhibitions initiated in 1974. For this exhibition selected artists will be chosen from among those who have made their home and studio in North Carolina and continue to contribute to the tradition of studio glass in North Carolina. This exhibition is curated by Joan Falconer Byrd, Professor of Art (Ceramics) School of Art & Design, WCU and Denise Drury, Interim Director, Fine Art Museum, WCU.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/227-3591 or visit (<http://www.wcu.edu/museum/>).

Commercial Exhibitions Taking Place

The Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present the exhibit, *Divergent Visions: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of American Studio Glass*, on view from June 7 through Aug. 31, 2012.

The exhibition will celebrate the diversity of glass as an artistic medium since the inception of the American Studio Glass Movement in 1962. New works made expressly for the exhibition by over twenty five regional and national as well as Canadian glass artists will be on display.



Carole Perry, *Apache Sunset Tapestry*, Hand Manipulated Hot Cane, 14" h x 17" w x 9" d, on view at The Bender Gallery, Asheville, NC.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/505-8341 or visit (www.thebendergallery.com).

Blue Spiral 1 in Asheville, NC, will present the exhibit, *Glass Secessionism*, featuring works by national artists involved in the Glass Secessionism movement, on view in the Showcase Gallery,

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