

Spartanburg Art Museum Offers Two Glass Exhibitions

Glass is an incredible substance. It is one of mankind's oldest inventions, yet is a vital technology in the present day. It is neither a liquid nor a solid, but exhibits properties of both. Glass defies categorization, and although we constantly make use of it when we drink a glass of water or use our 8x8 Pyrex to bake some brownies - it is an extraordinary material. When we encounter glass at its best – as in the north rose window of Chartres Cathedral or in millefiori paperweights from the Venetian Island of Murano, we seldom recognize it as the same prosaic material which holds our leftovers in the refrigerator. Explore the paradoxes and mysteries of glass at the Spartanburg Art Museum, on view through July 5 in two new exhibitions.

Furnace and Flame: Contemporary
Studio Glass, a group exhibition curated by
John Littleton and Kate Vogel features the
work of fourteen glass artists. This stunning
exhibition is a great introduction to appreciating glass as a fine art material. The selected works are a comprehensive survey of
the studio processes used in contemporary
glass making. Participating artists include:
Dean Allison, Rick Beck, Alex Bernstein,
Kate Bernstein, William Bernstein, Jennifer
Bueno, Thor Bueno, David Chatt, Shane
Fero, Robert Gardner, Harvey Littleton,
John Littleton and Kate Vogel.

"The museum is incredibly fortunate to have glass works in this exhibition by Harvey Littleton, who was responsible for moving glass from an industrial process to a studio practice back in the mid 1950's." says Elizabeth Goddard, Executive Director for the Spartanburg Art Museum. "Littleton founded the first studio glass program in 1962 at the art school of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, which is widely considered to have been the first collegelevel glassblowing course offered in the United States. One of his former students, Dale Chihuly, has become one of the most



"Jewel Seed", John Littleton & Kate Vogel, 2014

well-known glass artists living and working today.

"We are excited to have Harvey Littleton's son John Littleton in the exhibition as well," says Goddard, "A glass artist himself, John has been collaborating with his wife, Kate Vogel, since the early 1980's. Their blown and cast glass works are in private and public collections in the United States, Europe and Japan including such prestigious museums as the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, GA, and the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC." John and Kate live and work in Bakersville, NC.

The second glass exhibition, *The Kaplan Collection: Vintage Perfume Bottles* is on view in the Museum's Alcove Gallery. Jay and Pamela Kaplan have been collecting perfume bottles from the DeVilbiss

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