

AGGnews

The American Glass Guild is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that actively seeks the participation of all people with an interest in stained, leaded and decorative glass and its preservation and restoration.

Quarterly eNewsletter





2013 Conference Auction Highlight "Blue", Auction Panel by Nikki Williams Vogt



Making Glass For Artists by Eric Lovell 2013 Conference Speaker Highlight

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Message from the President



To all of my friends in the American Glass Guild, it is again an honor to address you in this President's message. In this special double issue you'll see highlights from the 2013 Conference in St. Augustine, as well as a glimpse into the future.

It was great seeing old friends and meeting new ones at our conference in beautiful St. Augustine, Florida. This issue features a photo collage of the 2013 conference workshops, plus my account of *Meet Your Muse*, the open drawing event that took a major departure this year. Conference Speaker Eric Lovell gives us a print version of the talk he gave about his experiences with making glass for artists at Uroboros Glass. We also get a report on the 2013 AGG auction.

Our juried members exhibition featured the work of 16 of our member artists, and was so well received at the prestigious St. Augustine Art Association that we were invited to extend the showing for an additional month. A call for submissions to next year's exhibit can be found in this issue.

We have two enthusiastic testimonials from recipients who've benefited from the James Whitney Scholarship fund. Indre McCraw writes of her experience as a student of renowned British glass painter Jonathan Cooke. Then Brianne Kozlowski tells of her adventure learning stained glass conservation as a part of her Master's Degree, and working in the conservation lab at the York Glaziers' Trust in York, England. We are happy to announce that Brianne has offered to help out with our newsletter in the future.

Speaking for myself, it was a great privilege to present the Joseph Barnes Lifetime Achievement Award to Jack Cushen. He was nominated by Art Femenella, who made an appearance via pre-taped video. I was also pleased to present a lifetime achievement award to Senior Advisor and stained glass promoter extraordinaire, Crosby Willett. Rick Prigg gave a humorous and stirring tribute to his former boss, mentor and friend. There were more than a few tears in the audience that night. Finally, my fine colleague Barbara Krueger was elevated to our prestigious group of Senior Advisors.

Start making plans for the 2014 AGG Conference, June 26-30 in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, nestled in the idyllic Huntington Valley north of Philadelphia. In addition to the extraordinary collection of medieval glass at Glencairn Museum and the early 20th century works by the craftsmen of Bryn Athyn Cathedral our conference will feature a full array of workshops, demonstrations and lecture. Let me be the first to start the rumor, if you have longed to study with the British dynamic-duo, Williams & Byrne you may just get your opportunity on this side of the "pond". We are also excited to have engaged Narcissus Quagliata as our keynote speaker.

Join us as we create "*Glasstopia*" in Bryn Athyn. We're not just visiting this time; we will be privileged to stay at this National Heritage Site as we have partnered with Bryn Athyn College to use their campus. Remember if you are interested in presenting at the conference please respond to the "Call for Proposals". The deadline for proposals has been extended to October 31st!

As always, I would like to thank our growing list of sponsors who help support our ongoing educational efforts. Please continue to recognize and thank them as you do business with these fine companies.

Finally, a big thank you to all of the volunteers who worked so hard to make the conference a huge success. Remember we can always use more help. One of the strengths that make the AGG unique as a non-profit glass organization is we are truly an all volunteer organization.

Kindest regards, J. Kenneth Leap, President

American Glass Guild Members in the News

TNC Gallery

155 First Avenue, between 9th and 10th Streets in Manhattan is pleased to announce -

"THROUGH A GLASS LIGHTLY "

it's the first one-man-show of east village glass artist

Joseph Cavalieri, featuring 30 works. The exhibit runs October 1-28, 2013. www.tncgallery.com



Judith Schaechter's exhibit "The Battle of Carnival and Lent" is reviewed in the October 2013 issue of ARTFORUM magazine. www.artforum.com/inprint/issue=201308



AGG Scholarship Testimonial Indre McCraw

I was fortunate enough to be granted a scholarship through the American Glass Guild this year, 2013, to attend Jonathan Cooke's week long painting course at Wheaton Village from May 10th through May 15th.

I can honestly say that this course was vital to my development as a glass painter; with one who has trained and worked professionally as a stained glass replication painter for reputable and respected studios and institutions. Jonathan's approach as an instructor was exceptionally well organized and the information was wonderfully presented to the group. There is no question that he held a captive audience.

The basis of the technique presented was in short a historically accurate approach for a glass painter who would like to understand and master the technique of glass painting for any century prior to the 1900's. For many of us, it was an entirely new approach to the medium- although likely the most historically accurate as Jonathan himself presented, he spent years rediscovering the lost skills and techniques he now teaches others.

I want to express gratitude to the AGG for granting me this very much appreciated opportunity to widen my knowledge base; much



wider than I realized when I applied to take the course. It is with sincerity that I recommend to anyone interested in the art of painting on glass that they seek out Jonathan Cooke as an instructor. You will marvel at his talent, his knowledge of the subject of historic glass techniques, and the generosity of character he expresses when he shares his expertise.

Indre McCraw New York, New York, 2013



AGG Scholarship Testimonial Brianne Kozlowski

I am a New Jersey native who has spent the last two years completing an MA in Stained Glass Conservation and Heritage Management at the University of York, in York, England. The funding available for American students enrolled at foreign institutions is usually very small, as was the case for me at the University of York. The possibility of me completing the program would not have been feasible without the Whitney Scholarship I was granted by the American Glass Guild, for which I am tremendously grateful. I would like to take this opportunity to tell everyone at AGG about what they have helped me to accomplish.

I cannot speak highly enough of the program at the University of York, one of only two exclusive stained glass conservation MA programs in the world, which takes an innovative approach to education. The program is directed by Sarah Brown, president of the British CVMA and director of the York Glaziers Trust, with the assistance of Dr. Ivo Rauch. The courses are jointly academic and practical, providing a well-rounded basis for future stained glass conservators to make wellinformed decisions. The academic side of the course educates in the history of stained glass conservation, with examples from around the world, as well as a broader focus on international heritage concerns. The practical side of the course has provided me with hands on training and involvement in several exciting projects and opportunities.

Although a serious academic program, the practical element to the course provides real-life learning experience. I completed an 18-week work placement at the York Glaziers Trust working on the Great East



Photograph from The Daily Telegraph, August 21, 2013

Window Project at York Minster. The Great East Window (1405-1408) is the largest expanse of medieval glass in Britain, attributed to John Thornton. I conserved a panel from beginning to end, and was involved with work on several other panels. It is rewarding knowing that some of my work will be forever in York Minster. In addition to the Great East Window Project, I installed a new window in the Minster, conserved other commissions that the Trust was involved with and conducted site work at parish churches both inside and outside of Yorkshire.

Last Spring, my colleagues and I went on a study tour around Germany, visiting some of the world's most important and monumental stained glass, not to mention some of the world's foremost experts. This was organised by Sarah and Ivo, who accompanied us during the trip, using their personal connections to create the best possible experiences. We were granted access to places that are normally not open to the public, like the exterior scaffolding of Cologne Cathedral, as well as the interior triforium. We were given a private tour and dinner in Lamberts Glasshutte in Waldsassen, where we were able to watch the glass being made. I also had the amazing experience of



Before-conservation image of head panel 6a



After-conservation image of head panel 6a with pieces removed that will be externally mounted for isothermal protective glazing.

All photos courtesy of Brianne Kozlowski and The York Glaziers Trust being able to visit some of the oldest known stained glass windows, dating from the 12th century, in Augsburg Cathedral in Bavaria.

This spring I designed a conservation proposal and fulfilled its terms for a small 18th century panel, attributed to William Peckitt, as part of my course requirements. The panel had been collected by a previous director of the York Glaziers Trust, and was sitting in storage for over a decade. It was immediately found that the panel was coated in a varnish that had poorly aged and yellowed. Furthermore, the panel had suffered from several areas of impact damage, and was repaired with several thick mending leads. It was proposed, and subsequently carried out, to remove the varnish and edge-bond the broken areas where possible, in hopes of restoring the aesthetic value of the piece.

It is very difficult to sum up the experience in a few paragraphs, but I hope to make clear the training I have received and experiences I have had at the University of York have given me the education and confidence I need as a conservator, helping me visualize my own future. I am looking forward to bringing back this knowledge to the United States and having a positive impact on our nation's stained glass and cultural heritage. None of this would have been possible without the Whitney Scholarship, to which I cannot thank the AGG enough.



Removing glazing cement from glass pieces.



Exterior: Cologne Cathedral scaffolding.



Brianne Kozlowski York, England, 2013

AMERICAN GLASS GUILD

2013 American Glass Guild Conference Workshop Highlights



Lamination in Stained Glass with Volker Brock









Paint Layering in One Firing with Jonathan Cooke



American Glass Guild on Flickr



http://www.flickr.com/photos/aggmember/collections/

Visit the American Glass Guild Flickr Collections, which house more than 2,100 images, mostly from AGG conferences going back to 2008.

Meet Your Muse 2013 AGG Conference Open Drawing Event by J. Kenneth Leap

I like to think that one of the highlights of the annual AGG conference is the open drawing session. Of course, being the organizer, I'm slightly biased! For any of you who have not experienced this event firsthand I'll start with a little background. Picture if you will, a chest of costumes, an unwitting volunteer from the audience, and the reenactment of a biblical scene for the sake of art - sketchbooks in hand, cameras optional. That was the idea anyway: Capture a fresh perspective on the imagery we so often deal with as the subject of a liturgical window rather than revisiting the same, trite and overused source material in the clipping morgue. It worked well, grew in popularity but was completely inappropriate to stage in St. Augustine! Flying all the garments down to Florida was not going to be an option.

Fortunately, fate intervened with inspiration from our 2012 Joseph Barnes recipient, Silvia Nicolas. During the drawing night at our Pittsburgh Conference, Silvia and I had a conversation in which she suggested the idea of beginning with mark making and then, "find the figures within". I remember her admonition to, "Make a big mark with conviction!" That challenged me to move out of my comfort zone



Kathy Jordan in the early stages

and leave the costumed drawing night behind in favor of an enormous group "cartoon" session. All that remained was to make it happen.

Months later this is how the evening unfolded in St Augustine. Program Chair, Mary Higgins titled the event "Meet Your Muse" and teamed me up with Barbara Krueger who had proposed a collage workshop for the same night. Barbara provided magazines, scissors & glue sticks and I blanketed a wall with white drop cloths and provided an array of black markers. While Barbara instructed participants at the collage tables I invited them to, "Step up to the wall and make your mark!" I proffered a selection of sharpie markers tailored to suit each personality type– Brush Tip, Extra Wide Chisel & the "Magnum". I briefly explained the concept that I adapted from Sylvia: "As a group, we will make big bold marks with the movement of the whole arm to lay down an armature of lines and then we will develop the image as the lines suggest."

To get a sense of how this went over, you only have to imagine the sound of a chirping cricket. No one was making eye contact with me



J. Kenneth Leap

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either. As I looked around the room my gaze fell on Leron Brooks, perhaps our newest AGG member, a tall, young student from Savannah Technical College. "Show them how it's done", I said as I put a marker in his hand and gently pushed him toward the void. He proved an excellent choice; although he thought I was crazy, the young man was fearless and far too polite to not play along. Inspired by his boldness, or perhaps shamed by his gracious self-sacrifice, the rest of the room quickly joined in.

From Leron's first bold arc, intricate branches, delicate spirals and bold lightning bolts began to grow and weave together. When I offered charcoal, tones and patterns followed. As inspiration waned, I gestured to a table at the side of the room and announced, "Consult the Muse". The table was spread with an array of envelops each emblazoned with a cursive letter "M". "The Muse offers you inspiration. Consult her if you dare. Whatever she suggests must be added in with care". Each envelop contained a clipping, a photo or word. Soon a composition began to emerge peopled with birds and animals, architectural elements and classical figures. We were enchanted, but the final magic was yet to come.

In a moment of violent inspiration, someone turned to Barbara's collage table, grabbed a glue stick and some red clippings and suddenly



added color to the drawing. In an electric moment that connected us all we shared a common vision. More cutting, pasting and color ensued. After perhaps another 20 minutes we sensed the image complete and all stepped back in amazement to admire our creation. This image, born totally of the collective talent in the room, enthralled us and invited fanciful interpretation. Our cartoon hung proudly for the remainder of the conference but the ephemeral canvas, like the magic that created it, was a gift of the moment and could not physically endure. I do hope



Leron Brooks

Senior Advisor Report



E. Crosby Willet

Driving to St. Augustine, Florida's oldest city, I felt the Karma was right for the Senior Advisors to star at the AGG Conference.

It was a disappointment to learn a number of our superstar artists - Rowan LeCompte, Patrick Reyntiens, Charles Lawrence, and Nick Parrendo - were unable to attend this year, mainly because they were so busy, but the void was ably filled by Senior Advisor Jean-Jacques Duval, who entertained the

more than one hundred attendees with a Power Point presentation of his amazing architectural commissions, created since his arrival in New York from France and the start of his own studio in 1958. It covered projects in a number of states, Canada and Germany, as well as a 41' x 200' leaded glass mural in a shopping mall in Nagoya, Japan. As an added bonus, his long time craftsman-associate, Helmut Schardt who has relocated to Sanford FL, was with him answering questions and educating many younger members about dalles de verre. One of the conference highlights is the presentation of the Barnes Awards, and this year it was given to the dean of stained glass craftsmen, Senior Advisor Jack Cushen. The award presentation was made on DVD, by AGG stalwart, Art Femenella, who trained with Jack at the legendary Greenland Studio, and partnered with him in a New Jersey restoration



Jack Cushen

venture. Jack stayed through the conference as a resource to a number of our new members, which was much appreciated.

After the Barnes Award there was an announcement of a new AGG Lifetime Achievement Award, which had never been given prior to this conference and your scribe was both surprised and humbled to be the first to receive it. Rick Prigg used a video of my life, assembled by the studio staff under the direction of AGG regular, Cynthia Gallagher, who was unable to attend this meeting. It illustrates the variety of the work of the Willet Hauser Studio during my 70 years of association, including photographs of a galaxy of our artistic staff and a picture of myself with former Senior Advisor Dick Millard, one of the early AGG organizers, which I felt was most appropriate. I was right! The Karma was excellent and the stars of the Senior Advisors shone brightly during the conference.

E. Crosby Willet

Newest Senior Advisor



Barbara Krueger

A former elementary school teacher, Barbara was on the art fair circuit selling her original stained glass when she decided to return to college for an art degree. Two years into the art program at Eastern Michigan University, which included many art history classes, she serendipitously took Introduction to Historic Preservation, switched her major and in 1995 graduated with a Masters in historic preservation (MS).

About 20 years ago Barbara began to volunteer for the Michigan Stained Glass Census (MSGC) which was organized under the

auspices of Michigan State University Museum. There are now over 1200 buildings, mostly churches, which have registered their stained-glass windows. With the death of Betty MacDowell last October, she became director of the MSGC, as well as the Moderator for the H-Net Forum on Architectural Stained Glass.

Michigan Stained Glass Census *http://michiganstainedglass.org*

H-Net Network on Architectural Stained Glass http://www.h-net.org/~stnglass/

Barbara was a founding member of the American Glass Guild and served on its board for six years. She is currently treasurer of the Hartland Area Historical Society and a member of APT and its Eastern Great Lakes Chapter.

One of three authors of the new book, Detroit's Historic Places of Worship, which took 15 years to research and documents the founding congregations, subsequent history, art, and architecture of 37 Detroit churches.

She lectures on "The Art and Architecture of Stained Glass" utilizing photos she has taken on trips to France, Germany, England and Scotland to study glass, as well as in the US and, of course, Michigan. She also works with area churches to help them ascertain the condition of their stained-glass windows.

2013 American Glass Guild Auction

Each year at our annual conference, the AGG hosts an auction event that serves as our organization's major source of fundraising. The Auction is often a highlight of the conference events, where people can bid in sometimes lively and competitive action for items like books, tools, glass, workshops, historic items and stained glass panels.

This year in St. Augustine we held not only a Silent Auction for attendees of our conference, but also a Live Auction held as a public event at the St. Augustine Art Association. The Silent Auction during a Thursday evening cocktail hour included nearly 50 donated items. The bidding was fierce as each table closed, with some people slyly hovering over their items in the hopes of making the final high bid.

The Live Auction was held on Friday evening, following our banquet. A local professional auctioneer, Lumen Beasley, kindly donated his services to help keep the action moving. And move it did! Of the 22 beautiful pieces of donated stained glass and other artwork placed in to the Live Auction, a Sylvia Nicolas' panel, titled "Bluebird," brought in the highest amount at \$1,750. Other high-bid items included Jon Erikson's panel "Last Gasp" (\$1,550) and Niki Vogt's panel "Blue" (\$1,000). Though the number of "outside" attendees was limited this year, our aim is to increase awareness of stained glass as a collectible art form through future public events tied to our conference.



Reusche on her Mind by Kelley Mooers

Untitled Peter Billington



Bluebird, Sylvia Nicolas

Thank you to everyone who took the time and energy to consider supporting the AGG with a donation to the Auction! Thanks to your generosity, and the generosity of our participants, we were able to raise \$18,000!! More than half of the money raised through our auction events goes into the James C. Whitney Scholarship Fund. Each year we award a number of scholarships to worthy recipients who wish to further their education in the field of stained glass. Watch for an announcement of the upcoming scholarship deadline if you are interested in applying for one of our scholarships. Scholarship funds can be used to attend workshops and classes --- even our annual conference --- where you can bid on next year's auction items! And the circle goes round...

Patrice Schelkun AGG Auction Chair, 2013



The Faces of St. Mark's, Patrice Schelkun

Making Glass for Artists:

Evolving from Stained Glass to Fusing

by Eric Lovell

2013 St. Augustine Conference Speaker Highlight

[editor's note: This is adapted from the 2013 conference pre-print article by Eric Lovell. He has kindly allowed me to reprint this with a new layout and additional illustrations - Thanks, Eric]

It was the fall of 1969, and I found myself hanging out blowing glass in Ray Grimm's "Glass Shack" at Portland State University. At that time it was one of the few hot glass art programs in the country. The technology was crude, and we made everything from scratch ourselves: blowpipes, furnaces, work benches, wooden blocks. The glass was from either JM #475 marbles (stiff as molasses in January), or remelted bottle cullet: whisky bottle clear, wine bottle green, and beer bottle brown. My 'university level' glass chemistry was to add cobalt carbonate to the whisky bottles to make blue.



Author in his studio, circa 1973

Developing Sheet Glass For Representational Windows

By 1973 I had opened my own blowing studio, and was formulating and mixing glass from the raw materials in order to get clearer, smootherworking blowing glass. While fun, it was not financially remunerative, so I eventually - and reluctantly - accepted an order for custom sheet glass from Tim Yockey and David Schlicker, a couple of local stained glass artists. They had a big job making a reproduction of a Tiffany window and couldn't get the specialty glass types they needed.



Early Blown Glass at Uroboros Glass

Although my glassmaking and blow- Uroboros Glass ing skills were up to the task for those days, new requirements and skills were needed to make sheet glass. Tim and David taught me what was needed, showed me pictures and pieces of the old glass, and how it was used. They wanted opals, so I studied up on micro-crystalline opals in glass, and found Sodium Aluminum Flouride from our local Aluminum smelter. They wanted strong colors, so I increased my concentrations. Then they wanted opal and strong color in the same sheets. I was on it! And not surprisingly, they wanted these sheets to be cuttable! It turned out that compatibility limits for mixed color sheet glass need to be tighter than for round blown objects. So I improved test techniques, tightened quality controls, and improved repeatability.

Curious, I continued to try to develop all the glass types used



Hand rolling to make textured and rippled sheet glass, using the original "River Bank Pipe" - Screen grab from the video "The World of Uroboros Glass" http://youtu.be/jB2Mz8MjU_I

in the turn of the century representational windows and lamps. The closer I could get the glass to look like a material from nature, the happier I was. I pulled a 40' rusty pipe from the river bank, and used the roughest piece as a roller for "Granite" texture. I learned to make a variety of ripples - for water, tree bark, or borders - by manipulating a hand held roller. I made acid proof glass sprayers to coat the hot sheets with iridescent lusters.

Then there were the ring mottles. I learned that most glass opals are formed from some combination of sodium fluoride and calcium fluoride microcrystals. They each have unique crystallization temperatures. It didn't take long before I learned to vary the temperatures across the sheets to locally enhance one or the other crystal type and achieve variable density opals in the characteristic ring mottle pattern. But they couldn't be cut. Often they had so much stress they came out of annealing with the rings sitting loose in a glassy swiss cheese matrix. It was pretty discouraging, because the colors were great, but for weeks and months on end the glass wasn't usable. 100% not usable! But I kept at it, and kept diligent test notes, and eventually learned how to dampen the effect, and got ring mottle glass to stay whole and be cuttable. Ring mottles are still what glass technologists call a "split-phase" glass (two separate glasses in one) and unlike single phase or single color glasses, scored runs can deflect irritatingly when they hit a particularly strong ring, but most users now find ours cuttable enough for everyday use.



Ring Mottle Glass

Glass Needed by Fusers

During the 80's in Portland, Boyce Lundstrom and his partners at Bullseye developed tested compatible glass for artists. At this stage, the technology was as crude as art glass blowing was 15 years previously. In 1989, I was drawn into the fusing field because fusers wanted some of my textures, irids, and colors to add to their fusible glass palette. All of a sudden, a bunch of previously unimportant glass properties were important to glass artists. Not surprisingly, fusers want their colors to remain stable after firing. They didn't want devit scum on the surfaces, or bubbles either. And they wanted compatibility to be so precise that they could make sharply defined color edges (as in a checkerboard) without fear of breakage. And they wanted the compatibility to be stabile through not just one, but also two or more firings. Talk about kicking it up a notch! Kiln firing colored opal glass changes the original crystallography, causing opacity, color and expansion points to shift. So in the 90's Bullseye and Uroboros were pushed to refine their formulas and processes, eventually finding ways to improve the glass properties across a wide range of colors, and to maintain color and expansion stability for most of the firing cycles that artists used. Each property took a lot of effort and experimentation to improve upon, and each change affected other properties. The most difficult glass types, from the



Hand rolling of Herringbone Granite Sheet Glass, circa mid 70's

fusing stability point of view, are yellow-orange-red opals. The dual crystallization of the opacifiers and the Cadmium based colorants are affected by heat cycling through the fusing temperature range, and affect each other. At one point I was proud to have achieved a successful red opal color that fired perfectly, both color and COE... for two firings. But on the third firing, the expansion kept jumping to a point that caused or risked breakage. That fix took a while, and if any of you suffered through red opals from that period, I thank you for your patience!

Luckily, the additional skills required of the glass maker to get control of the fusing properties provided other benefits by improving the quality of the relatively simpler stained glass. Intensity and repeatability in hot colors, cutability across multiple streaks of very strong colors, for some examples, were all clearly improved for the stained glass industry as a result of the qualities required of fusing glass.

Kiln firing primer

I'd like to introduce basic fusing terminology to traditional glass users who haven't fused much before. If you're already experienced, feel free to jump ahead.

Fusing vs. Kiln Casting

Fusing is melting together one or more layers of sheet, frit, or other components, typically into a fairly even thickness, often without an edge dam or mold, and generally under-thick. Usually a top fired kiln is preferred for fusing, but smaller (under 20" x 20") fusing projects can be successful in all kiln types.

Kiln castings are thicker than fusing, include 3-dimensional shapes, and always requires solid edge dams or molds. The heating and cooling requirements are considerably more technical. Controlled heating and cooling of the sides and bottom of the work are often at least as important as the top, so kilns with elements on all six surfaces are preferred.

Shelves, dams and molds is a big topic, for which we don't have enough time in this article. Basically, a shelf is most often a ceramic kiln shelf, either solid or hollow core, though sometimes insulation board is used. Dams can be made from either strips of insulation board or ceramic. I prefer ceramics for dams and shelves, because they are not insulative - the thermal properties are much more similar to the glass being fired. Small pre-made reusable molds are available from slip-cast ceramics, while custom made one-off or multiple use molds can be made in your studio with castable plaster based materials. The glass contact surface of each material is important, and affects the textural and visual quality of the finished glass surface. Study with an expert to shorten your learning curve.

Devitrification, or 'devit', is the fog, scum or crinkle that occurs on glasses not designed for kiln firing. The glass crystallizes in the heat and becomes non-glasslike. Even devit-free glass designed for kiln casting will devitrify if the glass isn't cleaned, or if the kiln air is contaminated during firing. The contaminants in the kiln atmosphere settle on the pristine clean glass you carefully loaded into the kiln. Contaminants come from kiln papers or mold materials as they outgas and "burn" during a firing. For example, calcium in plaster based molds is carried in the water vapor during evaporation and fires into the surface of the glass. This adds excess calcium to the glass surface, which makes it devitrify. Some people design with this effect in mind. Most don't, which brings us to the topic of kiln venting.



Kiln casting molds, filled and ready to fire.

AMERICAN GLASS GUILD

There are pre-firing methods for kiln papers and castable molds that eliminate many of the volatiles before you put the glass in. When this is impractical, or not effective on its own, you will want to vent your kiln to keep the air clean. This means propping up the lid an inch or two, opening up peep sites, or roof vents, etc. Methods vary with kiln type and size, but typically you want to refresh the air over in the kiln every few minutes at temperatures up to 300F, and less often as it gets hotter and more expensive to heat. You have to get used to your kiln - feel the movement of the air at the spot it vents out. There should be a mild air movement, not a strong wind. If it's too strong, close the vent openings accordingly. Venting should continue until 600-1000F, depending on conditions, value of the object being fired, and flammability of surrounding surfaces. Then, for safety and economy, close it up tight for the remainder of the firing. Don't burn down your studio trying to get a cleaner glass surface. Firing profiles: what they are and how to select them for fusing, casting, or painting. A firing profile is the cold-to-cold temperature cycle used during a firing. Unlike ceramics, glass needs specific controlled heating and controlled cooling rates. The maximum thickness and the peak temperature needed are the first two factors used when selecting a firing profile. There are several tables available that may be used as guides, with different schedules for different thicknesses. I studied the topic in some detail some years ago, reviewing all published guides and scores of actual firing results by active artists, and then published the tables we use at Uroboros Glass. PDFs can be found in the 'Resources' section of our website. Be sure to read

about the reasons to deviate from a table based on thickness, so you start learning when and how to adjust from the tables to fit unique situations. Less obvious firing factors: variable thickness, variable colors, wavy edges, mold thickness and material, and kiln type. Each of these affects the choice of a firing profile, almost always toward a slower profile. Read up, and don't be shy about contacting your glass supplier for a recommendation prior to the first firing of a new design or highly valuable work. Are you firing or re-firing? They aren't the same profiles - we see more breakage from re-fires than we want, and here's why: On a first firing, the glass pieces are all separate, whether sheet, frit, casting billets or whatever. They are relatively small, and the air and heat can circulate around to all sides of each piece during heat up. As a result, you can heat up fairly quickly. On a second firing, such as for bending, or when a prefired component is imbedded in a larger piece, the glass is already a solid. Air and heat cannot circulate except to the outer surface. Low temperature heating is when these usually break, so your heating profile needs to be much slower than for a first fire, with pauses for larger or thicker works. So choose a "re-fire" profile when you are re-firing (find them on the Uroboros website).

Bubble management is the art of controlling bubbles in kiln work. Some are attractive design elements, in my opinion, but others are not. We could have a whole workshop on this topic alone, but the key piece is to slow down or pause the heat up ramp in the 1150-1250F range. This allows time for the center areas of the work to heat up





Firing Profile

to the same temperature as the edges. Once accomplished, you want the center and surfaces to move up and through the softening range together. This avoids sealing the edges tight before the air escapes. Controlling bubbles to minimize, or to use as a design component, is a key tool in the kiln worker's tool kit. Study with an expert.

"Let it sleep!" My friend Paul Marioni was one of the first in the modern era to hot cast glass for sculpture. Lately he's been kiln casting as well. He coined the phrase "Let it sleep" to reinforce the need to keep the "X@%!!" kiln closed until the glass is at room temperature. OK, it's more important with larger or thicker pieces than with small pieces (under 1/2" or 6" diameter), but too many people still break pieces by opening their kiln early, especially in schools. Don't join them! With larger or high value pieces, profile your firing all the way down to 100F, then "Let it sleep" one more night before you peek. The core of a glass object always cools slower than the air inside the kiln, and it's the air temperature that your indicator is measuring. The final test we always do when opening a kiln containing high value work is to immediately put a bare hand on the exposed glass surface. If it's warmer than your hand, close up immediately and wait some more.

Frit Custom Color Blending 1 5 Product ID Colors Used Ratio Frit Size F3-2101-96 lvory Opal 1 Medium (F3) 1:1 F3-00-96 Clear Khaki Opal F3-2161-96 2 1:1 Medium (F3) F3-5181-96 Stone Opal F3-2181-96 3 1:1 Medium (F3) F3-1808-96 F3-2152-96 4 1:1 Medium (F3) Walnut Transparent F3-57-96 Persimmon Opal F3-2711-96 2:1:1 5 Orange Transparent F3-171-96 1 Medium (F3)

F3-5911-96

1

Current directions in kiln work

Speaking of sleeping, those of you who are not into the technical topics are probably pretty close to that right now. Let's change the topic and talk about finished kiln fired work and the trends we are currently seeing.

- 1. Heavier, larger and more complicated castings are becoming more frequent. More large 6-sided kilns are available, and more artists are using them.
- 2. But perhaps more importantly, it appears that the impact of largeness in a glass object has become less important as the market becomes more familiar with seeing glass in scale. The importance of good design and how the object fits into the space intended is gaining ground over the sheer impact of size.
- 3. Flat glass artists have been at this point for quite a while all available techniques are well known, good technique is presumed, and so excellent design and glass selection is how artists now distinguish themselves.
- 4. Mixed glass forms and techniques lead to more expressive imagery. Pre-fused, painted, etched or torch worked components are more common than simple shapes cut from sheet glass. Examples are Peter McGrain's "Vitri Fusaille" fused and painted technique, or David Alcala's Flexi-glass fused sand tapestries.
- 5. Tempering of thin fused panels is more and more common as building codes influence glass installed as architectural materials.
- 6. Tiles and tile panels are another growing direction for fused work. Laminating colors and irids to create patterns and visual effects unknown from ceramics provides myriad design options.



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from the webpage "Frit Custom Color Blending" http://www.uroboros.com/pdf/FritCustomColorsv6.pdf

Pink Champagne Transp.

Welcome to Bryn Athyn Home of the 2014 American Glass Guild Conference

The ninth annual American Glass Guild conference will be held June 26-30, 2014 on the campus of Bryn Athyn College in Bryn Athyn, PA. Bryn Athyn has a rich history of architecture and stained glass, including Bryn Athyn Cathedral and Glencairn Museum.

We have an exciting conference planned with varied presentations addressing our multifaceted field, including: artists, art history, new design, technique, conservation, internet marketing, and business. The keynote speaker will be renowned stained glass artist Narcissus Quagliata. We will be publishing a Post-Print of all the talks, which the AGG will sell to support its educational activities.

There will be a day of pre-conference workshops on Thursday June 25th. A post-conference stained-glass bus tour will take place on Monday, June 30th traveling to Princeton, New Jersey. The tour includes some of the finest glass by the Charles Connick Studios.



Bryn Athyn Cathedral

The conference is sponsored by Bryn Athyn College and will be held in new facilities within walking distance of both Bryn Athyn Cathedral and The Glencairn Museum, all a part of the Bryn Athyn Historic District. Lodging accommodations will be available in the suite dormitories of Bryn Athyn College.

We look forward to seeing you in Bryn Athyn!

To keep informed check out our 2014 Conference Blog http://agg2014.blogspot.com



Brickman Center, Bryn Athyn College



Glencairn Museum

Brief History of Stained Glass Making at Bryn Athyn

Bryn Athyn is a small suburban community located 20 miles north of Philadelphia on land that was purchased by John Pitcairn. Pitcairn's fortune came from investments in the railroad and in oil. With several others, he founded the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. in 1883.

His son, Raymond Pitcairn, spent a small fortune collecting historic stained glass windows, primarily from the French gothic period. Not as art objects only, these panels were to serve as inspiration for his craftsmen to study. Raymond was obsessed with recreating, in the most authentic way possible, the techniques used in 12th century gothic cathedrals and to do that he had to solve the problem of creating the right kind of glass for the windows.

John Larson was associated with the project at Bryn Athyn from 1916 to 1922. Eventually, Larson agreed to set up a factory in Bryn Athyn and train local workers.

The result was the Bryn Athyn Glassworks which opened in 1922 and produced glass until 1942.

J. Kenneth Leap from his blog Seeing Red: The Quest for Medieval Striated Glass



One of the stained glass panels, this one created for the home of Raymond Pitcairn (now The Glencairn Museum), using glass made in the Bryn Athyn Glass Workshop.

Images at right, top to bottom -

- 1) Bryn Athyn Glass Factory, 1922-1942.
- Stockpile of Bryn Athyn Glass Factory glass stored in the basement of Bryn Athyn Cathedral against future repairs.
- *3)* Sample of the special ruby striated glass developed at the Bryn Athyn Glass Factory.
- 4) One of the 11th century panels collected by Raymond Pitcairn used as inspiration and research for his glassworkers.

Glencairn Museum

http://www.glencairnmuseum.org

Seeing Red: The Quest for Medieval Striated Ruby http://striatedruby.blogspot.com

Bryn Athyn Cathedral: The Building of a Church http://www.newchurchhistory.org/articles/cathedral/10thestainedglass.php





Call for Submissions American Glass Now: 2014 Glencairn Museum, Bryn Athyn, PA Deadline November 15th, 2013

Our juried show this past year was a great success! It was so well received by the community that the venue asked to keep it up 6 weeks longer than originally scheduled. Building on that success, the American Glass Guild announces its third juried exhibit - American Glass Now: 2014 - which will run from May 1st to June 30th at the Glencairn Museum in Bryn Athyn, PA. Virginia Raguin will again lead the jury.

The show is intended to give artists an opportunity to experiment, to show their skills, to be ambitious, to have a dialogue with fellow artists, and to show the public what stained glass can be.

We invite all American Glass Guild members to submit a Design Concept in the form of a drawing/sketch/watercolor (the panel does NOT have to be finished to submit a concept), along with 5 digital images representative of your work.

Applicants must be a member of the AGG with all dues current.

Submissions should be sent to:

webmaster@americanglassguild.org with the words "American Glass Now: 2014" in the subject line by November 15, 2013 - no exceptions.

All images must be digitally submitted as jpegs at 72dpi and no larger than 800 pixels in either direction. File size must not exceed 1mb.

Accepted artists will be notified by December 15, 2013. Panels must be completed and photographed by April 30, 2014 in order to be included in our publicity materials.

As always: delivery and insurance costs are the responsibility of the individual artist. The AGG will not be responsible for any damage or theft.

We look forward to another great show!

Mary Clerkin Higgins



Our thanks goes to the jurors of *American Glass Now: 2013*, Drs. Virginia Raguin and Ena Heller, seen here discussing and critiqueing the works in the show during a special presentation at the conference.



Call for Proposals American Glass Guild 9th Annual Conference June 26-30, 2014 - Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania Deadline for Submissions: October 31st, 2013

The American Glass Guild's Board of Directors is seeking proposals for lectures, demonstrations and panels from artists, craftspeople, studios, conservators, architects and historians for the AGG annual Conference to be held June 26th–30th, 2014, in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania. We are also interested in proposals for workshops immediately before the Conference. Please consider sharing your work, insights, and interesting projects with your colleagues.

The Conference will present papers on the many different aspects which those working in the field are faced with, including: *new design* • *technique and materials* • *conservation history of the medium and its practitioners* • *best teaching practices*

THEME

Presentations will not be restricted by an overall theme but presenters may wish to consider the historic Bryn Athyn glass-making tradition and Glencairn Museum's collection of medieval glass.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Each presentation must be submitted in ONE category which are as follows:

- Lecture (20 minute or 40 minute slot) One person talk with visuals (slides or power point) about but not limited to: art and career, technical, health and safety, professional practices (marketing, legal), history and research, etc.
- Demonstration (1hr slot performed 3 times in succession) One person presentation demonstrating a particular skill or process. Presented like a cooking show where the presenter speaks about, shows images of process, shows pieces in process, and performs some aspect of the process live not limited to: painting, gluing, computer design, or any technique that can be condensed into the 1 hour time slot, start to finish. Any special needs must be discussed and approved prior to acceptance and demo.
- Panel (40 minute slot) One moderator and up to 4 other panelists for a maximum total of 5 people discussing a topic, visuals optional.

WHAT TO SUBMIT - for each proposal

Lecture

- Accepted talks will be 20 or 40 minutes in length with additional time for questions.
- Proposals should include a title and a description (no longer than 300 words) as it will appear in the conference brochure and on the AGG website.
- Authors must include a brief (75-100 words) bio, in addition to a resume/CV and full contact information for themselves (name/ company, mailing address, phone, and email address) and, if a panel is proposed, for the other possible panel members.
- At least 1 digital image relevant to your presentation; this will appear on the conference website. Please attach digital images that are at no more than 1MB or 3" x 5" at 72dpi include a caption for your image.

Demonstration

- Accepted demos will be 1 hour in length with additional time for questions and must be performed 3 times in succession to allow conference participants to cycle through in small groups.
- Proposals should include a title and a description (no longer than 300 words) as it will appear in the conference brochure and on the AGG website.
- Presenters must include a bio and full contact information for themselves (name/company, mailing address, phone, and email address) and, if a team is proposed, for the other possible members.

- Include all tools, materials and equipment needed (e.g. light tables, glass easel, paints, running water etc.) and who would be providing what (the demonstrator or the AGG). These sessions will take place in classrooms equipped with white boards and overhead projectors.
- At least 1 digital image relevant to your presentation; this will appear on the conference website. Please attach digital images that are at no more than 1MB or 3" x 5" at 72dpi include a caption for your image.

Workshop

- Accepted workshops will be no longer than 4 hours in duration and will be scheduled to run 8AM-12 NOON on Friday June 27, 2014. Instructors proposing workshops must include all tools, materials and equipment needed for the workshop (e.g. kilns, light tables, sandblasters, paints, etc.) and who would be providing what (the teacher or the AGG); whether they expect to charge a materials fee and for what; and what the students will need to bring (e.g. brushes, drawings, cutting tools, etc.)
- Proposals should include a title and a description (no longer than 300 words) as it will appear in the conference brochure and on the AGG website.
- Instructors must include a brief bio (75-100 words) and full contact information for themselves (name/company, mailing address, phone, and email address) and, if a team is proposed, for the other possible members.
- Include all tools, materials and equipment needed (e.g. light tables, glass easel, paints, running water etc.) and who would be providing what (the demonstrator or the AGG). These sessions will take place in classrooms equipped with white boards and overhead projectors.
- Instructors are requested to suggest the per student cost of the workshop and the minimum/maximum student enrollment.

NOTE: Conference workshops are typically priced around \$180 per student with 50% of the workshop fee going to the AGG.

• At least 1 digital image relevant to your presentation; this will appear on the conference website. Please attach digital images that are at no more than 1MB or 3" x 5" at 72dpi - include a caption for your image.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- DIGITAL SUBMISSIONS ONLY -Email to: conference@americanglassguild.org
- MAILED ON DISC TO: J. Kenneth Leap, Conference Chair 12 Washington Avenue, Runnemede, NJ 08078 - Submission materials sent by mail will not be returned.

WHAT YOU RECEIVE

- Presenters, Demonstrators and Panel Moderators receive one free registration for the Conference.
- Panelists receive a discount equivalent to one conference day
- Those giving workshops will receive fees for the workshop, but no reduction in Conference fees.
- To receive these benefits, presenters must register for the Conference. All travel and lodging expenses and reservations are the responsibility of the presenter.

IF ACCEPTED

Each presenter will be contacted by AGG Program Chair or conference co-chair and will be required to sign a contract and submit information for promotional materials (head-shot & image relevant to their presentation) by December 15th, 2013.

DEADLINES

Closing date for proposal submissions: October 31st, 2013 Notification of acceptance: November 22nd, 2013 Additional materials due (if accepted): December 15th, 2013

Please join us. The mission of the AGG is to provide a forum for the open exchange of information on stained, leaded and decorative glass and its creation, preservation, restoration, and history. Our intention is to work toward building an environment within the field that both cultivates novices and facilitates experienced artists and craftspeople to attain a higher level of expertise. Our Conferences include presentations, round-table discussions, and demonstrations by notable national and international experts.

Information on past Conferences is available on our website at http://www.americanglassguild.org

We would be delighted to have your input at the Conference and your contribution to discussions.

We look forward to seeing you in Bryn Athyn!

J. Kenneth Leap President, American Glass Guild Conference Chair, 2014

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The Kokomo Opalescent Glass Works of Kokomo, Indiana, is the oldest manufacturer of hand cast, rolled cathedral and opalescent glass in America, and the oldest manufacturer of opalescent glass in the world. KOG has long been an important supplier to the American stained glass industry, including documented sales to Louis C. Tiffany.



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The Quarterly eNewsletter of the American Glass Guild

Contributors included -

J. Kenneth Leap Indre McCraw Brianne Kozlowski E. Crosby Willet Mary Clerkin Higgins Patrice Schelkun Eric Lovell

Editing and Layout - Tom Krepcio

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