



A GLANCE AT GLASS

October 2018

The *Glass Alliance of Northern California* is a non-profit organization whose mission is to further the development and appreciation of art made from glass.

www.GLANCinfo.org

Message from the President

Education is a powerful tool that can truly change the trajectory of someone's life. Coming to glass later in life, after switching careers, I went through some difficulties in my early years in glass. I wish I had the guidance to point me toward scholarships and educational opportunities that could have had a positive impact on my transition to glass.

As we look at youth today, and the continued focus on a more traditional system of learning, maintaining art programs and supplying scholarships become even more important. For students that don't fit into the structure of a more traditional career path, it is critical that they receive the support they need to be successful in a field with perhaps less certainty. I will always remember teaching a one day workshop, where a mother came in with 3 children. She wanted to speak to me before the class and "warn me" that 2 of her children were fast learners and did very well in school, while the 3rd child struggled and would probably need extra help. Needless to say, by the end of the day, the child she was worried about, was the one that excelled the most out of all the students in the class, and was actually extremely gifted. As this child was flameworking his final piece, he looked up with a huge smile on his face, and asked if he could come work for me some day. It took just one day, and one class, for this transformation to happen. It really resonated deeply with me, and illustrates the importance of taking children out of a typical learning environment, to discover strengths they didn't know they had, and career paths they had never considered.

The scholarship that GLANC offers for graduates of the Palo Alto High School program, gives support to students as they are starting the next phase of their life. This financial support is critical, in giving them the resources they need for equipment or further workshops, to develop their craft. We really thank you, the members of GLANC, for continuing to donate to the

scholarship fund, and allowing us to continue this support of youth. Knowledge has power, and financial support ensures that students feel empowered, to take on a career in art - wherever it may lead!

Best,

Demetra Theofanous

President, Glass Alliance of Northern California

Welcome New GLANC Members!

Welcome new members: Gregory Tomb and Claire Sereda!

**** SAVE THE DATE ****

UPCOMING GLANC EVENTS!

Nov. 10: A visit to Marvin Lipofsky's studio!

Feb. 2: Artist talk with Mark Abilgaard at Bullseye Glass

Details regarding time and location will be in our email flyer!

GLANC Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Demetra Theofanous, Formatting: Mark Murai

Contributors to this Issue:

Demetra Theofanous, Tom Kasten

Randy Strong at the Napa Valley Museum

[Demetra Theofanous]

We recently visited artist Randy Strong, to hear his talk at the Napa Valley Museum, where he had a retrospective exhibition of his work.



Randy Strong at his Exhibition

Randy has been blowing glass for over 40 years, running a private studio and gallery in Berkeley during much of that time. He was one of a handful of the early pioneering American glass artists that were part of the studio glass movement in the Bay Area. Before glass, however, he had a broad education in the arts, ranging from photography to ceramics. He was very lucky to have renowned ceramicist Peter Voulkos as his mentor and got his first taste of glass at CCA - California College of the Arts. He eventually transitioned from ceramics to glass, and connected with Dale Chihuly at the time Pilchuck Glass School was just being built.



During our visit, Randy's slideshow took us through a journey of his early years, which gave a nice and concise history of the birth and growth of studio glass, and provided a really interesting glimpse into the personalities that made up that landscape. He was open about the struggle of work being viewed as art or production/craft, and the challenges he faced in having to make a living from his art. His work over the years has ranged from goblets to one of a kind sculptures, now featured in collections such as the Louvre in Paris, and the Corning Museum in New York.



Randy Strong with Jim Della and Dani and Gary Montague

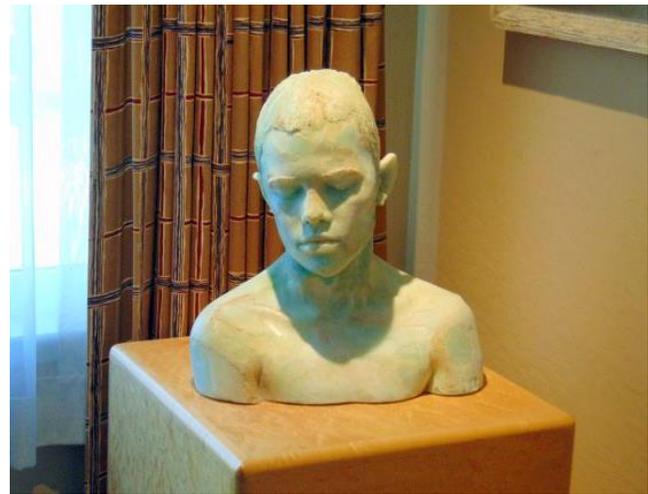
While he is still blowing glass, he is making a limited amount of work. The rest of his time is spent working on a book called "The Glassmakers", which spotlights and details the history of the pioneers in glass

responsible for creating what now exists as the American Glass Movement.

Membership Appreciation Event at Jim Della's
[Demetra Theofanous]

The GLANC group had the wonderful opportunity to visit Jim Della's home again, for our annual Membership Appreciation Event. We appreciate all of you and the support you bring to this organization! Every year we arrange a special day, to express our thanks, and were lucky to have Jim invite us back. From his incredible glass collection of over 900 pieces, to his gorgeous garden, it was the perfect day for this afternoon visit. Jim has purchased numerous new pieces since we last visited his home, including works by Sidney Hutter, Dean Allison, Caleb Simon, and Hiroshi Yamano. As Jim took us on the tour, he shared stories about many of the artists, and how he acquired the works. The visit also included a look inside his incredible butterfly room, as he took us through the different species filling the walls of the room.

Thank you, Jim, for yet another fabulous tour of your collection!!





GLANC Artist Member Mary White, next to her glass house, in Jim's Butterfly room



A view of Marvin Lipofsky's exhibit at the Jay Musler Gallery

AACG comes to San Francisco

[Demetra Theofanous]

The AACG group came to San Francisco for their annual tour this year, which included a visit to Tom and Kendra Kasten's collection, as well as visits to our local glass galleries. At the Jay Musler Gallery they saw a beautiful exhibition of Marvin Lipofsky's work and also had a chance to meet some of our talented, local artists.

Also in San Francisco, the group visited Montague Gallery near Union Square. Artist Leah Wingfield, came down from Oregon to give a wonderful talk to the group, and present some of her new sculptures. Some of the local artists represented by Montague were present to talk about their work as well. It is always a pleasure to connect with glass collectors and enthusiasts from around the country, hear their personal stories, and share in our love of glass!



Leah Wingfield (pictured right), stands by her new work at Montague Gallery. Also shown: Josh Hershman, Dani Montague, Dean Bensen, Demetra Theofanous, John Kiley, Larry & Marlene Eisenberg, and Gary Montague.

GLANC MAESTRO EVENT FEATURING APRIL SURGENT

[Tom Kasten]

On September 8, GLANC held another event in its Maestro Series at the Montague Gallery in San Francisco, featuring glass artist April Surgent.



April Surgent speaking about her work

April Surgent started working with glass in 1997, at open access hot shop studios in her hometown of Seattle, WA. She went on to study at the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. In 2003. She changed her focus from blown to wheel engraved glass after studying under the Czech master engraver Jiri Harcuba at the Pilchuck glass school. She has been engraving for 14 years, interested in contemporary approaches to the traditional craft of wheel engraving.

April's interest in applied conservation science led her to Antarctica in 2013, with the National Science Foundation's, Antarctic Artist and Writers Program. Her research there focused on remote conservation fieldwork and the effects of anthropogenic impacts on vulnerable ecosystems. Using a pinhole camera, April was able to capture the incredible movement of light over the bleak landscape. She sets the camera in a fixed position and then lets the exposure develop over several days to capture the movement of the sun. April returned home and created a body of work from that experience that shows both the beauty and isolation of that place.

Following that, she joined the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's, Hawaiian Monk Seal

Research Program, working as an embedded member of a three-person field camp and spent 6 months on an atoll in the Pacific Ocean in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands about 1,200 miles from Honolulu. Her art pieces that emanated from that experience represent environmental stewardship and wildlife conservation. While on the atoll, she collected hundreds of disposable lighters that washed ashore from the ocean and created a montage of lighters, arranged by color, representing the detritus that accumulates from the human hand. This piece has recently been installed in the San Juan Islands museum.

Her most recent adventure included living on the Farallone Islands, working as a research assistant and studying the ecosystem there for 3 months. We are eagerly awaiting the pieces that April will create showing her experiences on those islands.

April views her work as an archival record since glass can last thousands of years. Each of her adventures leads to a series of glass engravings capturing the flora and fauna of her host environment and representing nature and human interaction, as well as the effects of climate change on our planet.

April presented a slide show chronicling her work over time, starting with her youth and showing the evolution of her art. Her train station series and city series capture the reflection of humans in a man-made world. She followed with many pictures of her work depicting her experiences in Antarctica and the Pacific Ocean. We eagerly await her newest work, which will chronicle her experience on the Farallones.

Technically, her work is brilliant, using the cameo technique, she creates a low relief design by laying flat panels of colored glass on top of each other and then grinding and carving away at the layers to create the scenes. Her use of black, white and blue create incredibly deep and resonant images that have an ethereal feel to them. April is a very accomplished photographer and uses her photos as models for her art. Many of her pieces are presented in a series of blocks which when taken together form the entire image, but many of the individual blocks are beautiful in and of themselves.

April's work is in great demand and sells out almost to the piece in a matter of a few days. Montague Gallery has one of her pieces on display, so stop by, visit the

gallery and look at April's work. As they say, "A picture is worth a thousand words."



Tom and Kendra Kasten with April Surgent



April Surgent's "Sea Ice Moves in Spring"



April Surgent's "In the End it was the Sea"



April Surgent talking to Eva Klein

2018 GLANC Award recipients – Palo Alto High School Scholarships

[Cherie Miller Sopkin]

Audrey Fulker and Maya Reamey, Palo Alto High School graduating seniors, were the 2018 Glass Alliance of Northern California (GLANC) scholarship winners. The \$500 scholarships are awarded to outstanding graduating Palo Alto High School students who are going on to pursue studies that include the fiery arts. Maya is now a student at the University of California at Santa Barbara. In responding to the award, she writes: "I had the extraordinary opportunity to work with glass in Paly's Fiery Arts Program for the past three years. The medium allows for nearly limitless experimentation, and I enjoyed the process of trying new techniques and attempting to create original pieces. Aside from art, my

other great interest is marine life, and I am currently attending the University of California at Santa Barbara with plans to study chemistry with a focus on the marine environment. I hope to continue to explore with glass, particularly flameworking, over the next four years and beyond."

Audrey is attending the University of Colorado. Audrey writes: "In high school glassblowing provided me with not only an artistic outlet but also an appreciation for the diversity of glass arts. With glass being such a varied medium I was able to create pieces in different styles influenced by different artists and truly find my "artistic identity". I hope to continue glassblowing as I continue my education at the University of Colorado and spread my love of glass to others."

Providing financial support to further the education of students in the glass arts is an important part the GLANC mission.

According to PALY glass instructor, Steve Ferrera, both Audrey and Maya were selected for their dedication to the glass program as well as for their individual technical skills. Incidentally, Maya was the first Paly student to complete the new Advanced Placement (AP) Studio Art course. She submitted a portfolio that had an emphasis in glass.

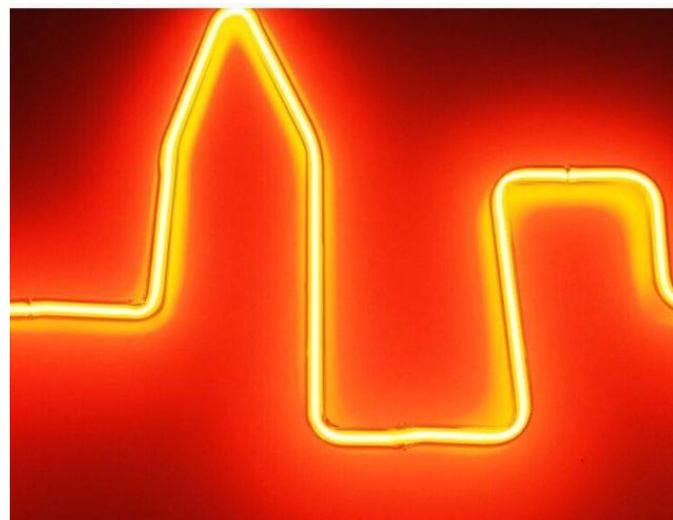
Since 1998, the Palo Alto High School Fiery Arts program has changed the lives of many Paly students; today, the program is one only a few glass programs at public high schools in the United States. At PALY, students have access to a full ceramic and sculpture studio as well as glass blowing, bead-making and jewelry. This is a unique opportunity for students to engage in hands-on projects that will encourage creativity, as well as develop the technical skills and methods of artists and craftspeople. Throughout the year students are introduced to various mediums, processes and methods of artists and craftspeople. The program's goal is to build the skill sets of an artist, and engage in projects that are both technically and conceptually challenging. Art history, a review of contemporary art, and art criticism are also important aspects of the program.

The members of the PALY glass community are delighted to be working with GLANC and appreciates these scholarships to further support the education of students in the glass arts. According to Nancy Kawakita, President of the PALY Glass Boosters, the students are always so grateful and happy for the recognition of their hard work.

Learn more about the Paly program with this YouTube video: "Palo Alto High School Students Blow Glass"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=3Ug5M2HXr_g



Scholarship Recipient Maya Reamey



Scholarship recipient Audrey Fulker

SPECIAL HAPPENINGS

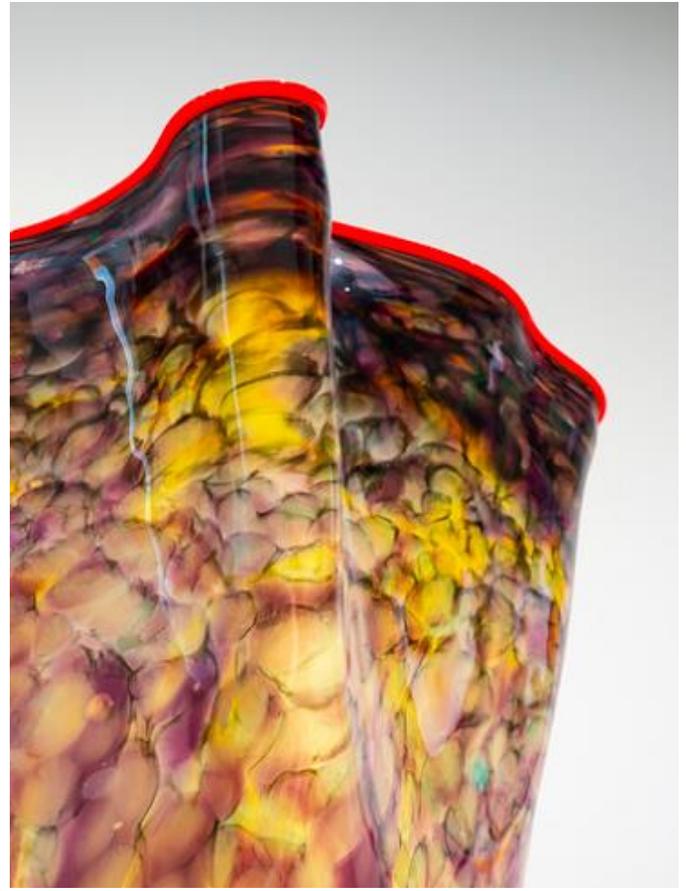
TheatreWorks: Bid on a “Chihuly experience”, that will be available at the TheaterWorks Gala on Nov. 3. It is an opportunity to travel to Seattle and visit Chihuly’s private boathouse, as well as tour Chihuly Garden and Glass. This experience is good for 8 attendees, and also includes lunch. You can participate in the auction through proxy bidding. <https://theatreworks.org/> (Further information was unfortunately not provided prior to the newsletter going online, but we will be updating it with further information as it is available.)

San Jose ICA: A private collector has donated a Chihuly Macchia, to the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, for their annual fundraising auction on Oct. 27. He has been the only owner of this piece, and purchased it in 1997. This beautiful piece is currently on display in the San Jose ICA gallery, and will be on exhibit through Oct. 27, when the live auction will take place at 6pm. The San Jose ICA’s “Connect & Collect” Art Auction and Exhibition is now in its’ 38th year, and features more than 200 pieces in all media, by local, national, and international artists. Absentee bidding is available for collectors that are unable to attend the live event. Absentee bids will be accepted in the gallery during the run of the exhibition, or by phone at (408) 283-8155, up until Friday, October 26th at 3PM. It is a wonderful opportunity to bid on a Chihuly piece!

(<https://www.sjica.org/38th-annual-art-exhibition-and-auction/>)



Chihuly Macchia at SJ ICA Auction



Detail of Chihuly Macchia available in San Jose ICA Auction

GLANC Artist Member News

Reiko F. Nojima will be in the Ochabees Exhibition - a tribute to Hara-G. It runs Oct. 22-27 at the Gallery Iriya Tokyo. (www.galleryiriya.com)

Gregory Tomb will be in the Arizona Fine Art Expo, January 10- March 25, 2019.

Dean Bensen will be exhibiting in the 25th annual SITKA Invitational in Oregon, on Nov. 2, 3, & 4. This show is focused on ecology and the natural world, and is held annually in Portland, OR. (www.sitka.org)

Jay Musler has curated a stunning array of Marvin Lipofsky’s work for an exhibition on view at his gallery. The show runs through January, and is open by appointment only. (www.jaymuslergallery.com)

Cheryl Derricotte will be participating in Weekend 3 of San Francisco Open Studios. All are welcome - it runs Oct. 27 & 28 from 11am-6pm. Yosemite Place Studios, 1777 Yosemite Ave., Studio #207 (second floor), San Francisco, CA

Linda Gass is in the exhibit "The Nature of Stitch", at the Sheehan Gallery at Whitman College, in Walla Walla, Washington. It runs through Dec. 7, 2018.

Linda Gass will have a Fall & Holiday Open Studio: Nov. 3-4 & Dec. 1, at the Alameda Artworks in San Jose. It runs from 11-5pm; 1068 The Alameda, San Jose, CA.

Susan Longini in the "Structure of Memory", at Morgan Contemporary Glass Gallery; Runs Oct. 5, 2018 – Jan. 18, 2019.

Demetra Theofanous will be exhibiting at the 25th annual SITKA Invitational in Oregon, which runs from Nov. 2-4, in Portland, OR.

Demetra Theofanous will be in an International Group Exhibition organized by the Hejian Council Government in Cangzhou, China. It runs from Oct 15-Nov 15.

** GLANC Artist Members – remember to provide us with your upcoming exhibition information, so we can include it in the newsletter! Email it to glancinfo@comcast.net, in time for the quarterly deadlines. Please get it to us the month BEFORE the newsletter comes out. The newsletter is distributed in January, April, July, and October.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

- SOFA (Sculpture Objects and Functional Art) 2018 : Nov. 1 - 4 with the opening night preview on Thursday, Nov 1. ; at the Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois
- FORM Miami 2018: Dec. 5-9; Miami, FL
- Curious and Curiouser: Surprising Finds from the Rakow Library; at the Corning Museum of Glass through Feb. 17, 2019. Corning, NY.
- Swing States: Recent Perspectives in Glass Sculpture from the Middle west; at The Sculpture Center, Cleveland, OH; through Oct. 26.

- 25 Years of Fusion; exhibition at Space Verre, in Montreal, Canada. Through Nov.2 .
- Dale Chihuly: Another Realm; Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, IN. Through Nov. 25.
- Beauty Beyond Nature: The Glass Art of Paul Stankard; Museum of American Glass at WheatonArts; Millville, NJ. Through Dec. 30, 2018.
- Two Centuries of Glass; Exhibition at the Washington State History Museum, Tacoma WA; Through Jan 27, 2019.
- Materiality: Contemporary Art in Glass, Ceramics, Fiber and Wood; Cincinnati Art Museum; Cincinnati, OH. Through Nov. 3, 2019

OTHER RESOURCES

Please visit these websites to stay up to date on glass events and exhibits both in the Bay Area, and around the country.

- Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass: www.contempglass.org
- Bay Area Glass Institute: www.bagi.org
- Bullseye Gallery: www.bullseyegallery.com
- The Crucible: www.thecrucible.org
- Glass Art Society: www.glassinfo.org
- Habatat Galleries: www.habatat.com
- Montague Gallery: www.montaguegallerysf.com
- Pilchuck Glass School: www.pilchuck.com
- Public Glass: www.publicglass.org
- Sculpturesite Gallery: www.sculpturesite.com