

**2010 British
Biennale glass**
The UK's major exhibition
of contemporary glass

INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL
OF
GLASS

P R E S S R E L E A S E – M A Y 2 0 1 0

BRITISH GLASS BIENNALE – SELECTED ARTISTS ANNOUNCED!

The International Festival of Glass, in association with the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers, is delighted to announce the artists selected for the 2010 British Glass Biennale exhibition. Over two days a distinguished panel of judges chaired by Reino Liefkes (V&A) and comprising Annabelle Campbell (Crafts Council), Sylva Petrova (University of Sunderland), Alan Poole (Dan Klein Associates) and Colin Reid (Glass Artist), selected the very best of this year's entries, to ensure a showcase of the most exciting work in glass art made by British based artists over the last two years.

Competition for selection was fierce, with the jury selecting 96 pieces from 449 works submitted by 202 artists.

62 artists competing for £11,500 of prizes

In all 62 artists, including 9 students will compete for a prize fund totalling £11,500, once again including the Glass Seller's Award as well as the Biennale Prize for Best in Show and new this year the 'Art in Action Prize for Contemporary Glass'. Prize winners will be announced at the Private View and Awards Ceremony on 26 August at the Ruskin Centre, Stourbridge.

Invited artists with brave and innovative techniques also to exhibit

A significant innovation to the Biennale exhibition this year is the addition of an "invited section" to the exhibition – the inclusion of works by 19 invited artists, chosen to represent established and extraordinary talent in British glass, including Rachael Woodman, Colin Reid, Peter Layton, Keiko Mukaide, Ronald Pennell and Carl Nordbruch.

The selected artists have been brave and innovative, using a wide range of styles and techniques both traditional and experimental to create works that range from pieces of serene beauty (Hanne Enemark) to the tongue in cheek (Verity Burley) to those with very dark subject matters (Jeff Zimmer).

Notable this year is that relatively new or emerging techniques such as waterjet cutting have come of age. Artists are no longer mesmerised by the technique itself and are using it to its full potential to express their visions of the world, as demonstrated by the diverse pieces using this technology (Vanessa Cutler, Margareth Troli (student), Jeffrey Sarmiento and Esther Adesigbin). Tracy Nicholls, winner of the Biennale Prize in 2008, has produced work that is dramatically different in style and direction to her 2008 piece but which retains the sophistication of her previous work with its deceptive simplicity. Once again, James Lethbridge delights with his staggeringly beautiful, botanically inspired chandelier. An interesting aspect to the works selected is the different cultural references evident in the pieces from international artists eligible through study or residency in the UK. One example is the work of Yi Peng 'Abacus's keyboard' whose subject matter and use of traditional Chinese beadmaking techniques clearly reflect Asian influences.

The organisers have been delighted to observe the creativity of artists to produce dramatic and striking works, installations, as well as pieces using film, animation and sound.

The exhibition is open daily from 27 August to 11 September 2010 at the Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge; the heart of the historic glass industry in the UK. The awards ceremony marks the start of the International Festival of Glass, a four day event celebrating the drama and excitement of glass. The British Glass Biennale is a selling show with 115 pieces of work ranging from small scale to large installations and prices from £85 - £11,000 for sale to collectors and buyers.

ENDS

Contact information:

For further PRESS information, hi-res versions of all images and full credits, please contact **Miranda Sowden** on 079710 53066 or email sowden33@tiscali.co.uk

Editor's notes:

1. British Glass Biennale, 27 August – 11 September 2010

The British Glass Biennale is held in the former Royal Doulton - Webb Corbett factory at Ruskin Glass Centre, Wollaston Road, Amblecote, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 4HF.

Open every day: 10.00am – 5.00pm

For more information visit www.biennale.org.uk

ENTRY TO THE EXHIBITION IS FREE (except for the four days of the public Festival 27-30 August when there is a small charge to enter the Ruskin site)

The Jury panel comprises: Annabelle Campbell – Exhibitions & Collections Manager, Crafts Council; Reino Liefkes – Senior Curator Ceramics & Glass Collection, V&A Museum; Sylva Petrova – Director, Institute for International Research in Glass, University of Sunderland; Alan J. Poole – Dan Klein Associates; Colin Reid – Glass Artist.

A highly desirable, soft back full colour catalogue accompanies the British Glass Biennale exhibition. The catalogue features all exhibiting artists work and essays from the jury panel. The catalogue is available from the Ruskin Glass Centre, all participating indoor venues throughout the International Festival of Glass; specialist bookshops; galleries and the British Glass Biennale website. It is free to the press.

The prizes

The International Festival of Glass is delighted to be working once again in association with the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers to offer four prizes: the Glass Sellers Award of £5000; Glass Sellers Award, Runner up of £1000; Glass Sellers Student Award of £1000 and Glass Sellers Student Award, Runner up of £500.

The British Glass Biennale Award 2010 is £3,000 for the piece judged by the Biennale jury to reflect the highest degree of creative achievement in contemporary British glass, and to be the 'best in show'. The Biennale prize has been donated by private collectors.

The winners of the Glass Sellers Awards will be selected by the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers. They will be looking for originality and talent in the use of glass as a medium of artistic expression and the awards are presented for the artistic and technical excellence of submissions predominantly in glass.

Art in Action will also be offering a £1000 prize for 'The Art in Action Award for Contemporary Glass'. In contrast to the Glass Sellers and Biennale Award, all artists who are exhibiting in this year's exhibition, including invited artists, will be eligible for the award and the winner will also be invited to demonstrate at Art in Action 2011.

The catalogue has been possible to publish thanks to the following sponsors: Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers, Contemporary Glass Society, Glass Association, Scottish Glass Society, Cohesion and a British Glass Collector.

BRITISH GLASS BIENNALE ARTISTS 2010

Please note a starred artist * indicates an invited artist and ** indicates an entrant for the Glass Sellers Student Award

Esther Adesigbin
Lisa Anne Bate **
Eleanor Bird
Sarah Blood
Tim Boswell
Heike Brachlow
Keith Brocklehurst *
Karen Browning
Verity Jasmin Burley

Criss Chaney
Katharine Coleman *
Jaqueline Cooley
Bob Crooks *
Keith Cummings *
Vanessa Cutler
Erin Dickson **
Shelley Doolan
Matt Durran *

Shirley Eccles
Rachel Elliott
Fiaz Elson
Hanne Enemark **
Sally Fawkes
Frances Federer
Carrie Fertig
Catherine Forsyth
Steve Frey
Joseph Harrington
Anthony Harris
Kate Henderson
Catherine Hough *
George F Jackson
Richard Jackson *
Max Jacquard *
Angela Jarman *
David Kaplan & Annica Standström
June Kingsbury
Alison Kinnaird *
Max Lamb
Peter Layton *
James Lethbridge
Xin Li **
Julia Malle **
James Maskrey
Gayle Matthias
Graham Muir
Keiko Mukaide *
Steven Newell *
Tracy Nicholls
Carl Nordburch *

Rachel O'Dell
Purnima Patel
Jacque Pavlosky
Yi Peng **
Ronald Pennell *
Anthony Pollock
Colin Reid *
Bruno Romanelli
Belinda Salmon Harding
Jeffrey Sarmiento
Victoria Scholes
Lisa Sheppy **
Cathryn Shilling
Pauline Solven *
Andrea Spencer
Max Stewart
Ayako Tani
Louis Thompson
Angela Thwaites *
Gaea Todd
Margareth Troli **
Rebecca Turbin **
Hélène Uffren
Rowan van der Holt
Anna Vesele
Surinder Warboys
Liz Waugh McManus
Rachel Welford
Kathryn Wightman
Rachael Woodman *
Jeff Zimmer

2. The International Festival of Glass 2010 - Public Festival 27 – 30 August 2010

The International Festival of Glass is now a firmly established event for all glass enthusiasts. The festival celebrates the unique glass making heritage of the area as well as the dynamic emergence of a whole new era of contemporary glass making drawing large national and international audiences into Stourbridge and the Black Country. Featuring world class exhibitions, including the prestigious British Glass Biennale, demonstrations, open studios and events, the festival aims to intrigue, innovate and inspire glass makers and the public alike. Festival venues include the Ruskin Glass Centre, Red House Glass Cone and Broadfield House Glass Museum.

Entry to most festival venues is free. Ruskin Glass Centre entrance fee: £9.50 four day pass, £5 adult day pass, £1 child day pass (27 – 30 August only). Some venues will charge for involvement in some activities when on site.

Info: www.ifg.org.uk
E mail: info@ifg.org.uk

The International Festival of Glass is an umbrella term to describe a comprehensive programme of events at venues across the historic Glass Quarter that include glass

workshops and masterclasses (23-26 August) as well as the British Glass Biennale (27 August to 11 September), and a four day Public Glass Festival (27 to 30 August).

The West Midlands town of Stourbridge has the richest of glass making traditions and is widely regarded as 'the home of glass making'.

Funders:

