

Message from the President



Our fall exhibit at Strathmore closed at the end of October. Thanks to our wonderful marketing committee and others who put pictures on our Facebook page, I have seen the pieces in the exhibit. It was a truly wonderful show. If you didn't not see it, the virtual tour of the exhibit is on our website so it is available to all.

Our annual meeting, featuring an array of delicious food, election results, and an auction, was held on Oct. 8. The food was amazing and the turnout was wonderful—everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get together.

I'd like to welcome our new slate of officers- Becky Snyder, President, Shayna Heller, VP, Suzanne Ardent, Treasurer, Sarah Pick, Secretary, directors Allan Jaworski (membership), Elaine Byergo, and Michelle Rial. Each director assumes responsibility for some area of the Guild. I will serve as Past President. I am sure they will continue to help us grow, and I am delighted that people fairly new to the guild have been able and willing to step up and take responsibility for its success. I wish them all a wonderful year.

Our membership continues to grow – about 186 members last I heard. Our Facebook page gets new members often – we now have over 500. We do need people to participate on our Instagram page – comment and show your work. We love to see what our members are doing, so please post your work on both our FB and Instagram pages.

I am only retiring as President, so you will be hearing from me and seeing me around. It has been a really wonderful three years. Thank you all for your support.

Tamah

Tamah Graber, President, NCAGG

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2023 NCAGG Annual Meeting

The Guild held its 2023 annual meeting at Becky Snider’s lovely home on Oct. 8. About 40 members convened to nosh on an amazing array of food and share glass stories. Following lunch, President Tamah Graber introduced the officers for 2024, acknowledged the remarkable work of our volunteers, raffled prizes and recognized Nancy Weisser, retiring owner of Weisser Glass, for her unwavering support of area glass artists and contributions to advancing the understanding of glass as art.

Tamah noted that 69 Guild members voted “Yes” for the slate of 2024 candidates. Next year’s officers are:

President: Becky Snider

Vice President: Shayna Heller

Treasurer: Suzanne Arden

Secretary: Sarah Pick

Directors:

Allan Jaworski (Membership),

Elaine Byergo (Show Committee) and

Michelle Rial (Social Media and Publicity).



Tamah also acknowledged volunteers who contribute to the functioning of the Guild including Shona D’Cruz, who works on our Instagram account and sets up the voting for the election, and newsletter publisher Sherry Selevan and editor Kathy Thomas.

Get Ready for MAGLESS!



Magless Examples from Previous Years

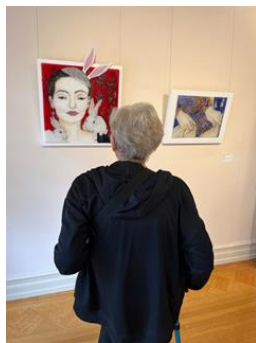
The most popular Guild program of the year—it’s like a cookie exchange except with glass. Members will exchange 1-2-inch hand-made glass tiles in whatever technique they’d like and in any shape they choose. Think refrigerator magnet without the actual magnet attached. Participants then give a super short talk on how they made their magless at our March 17 meeting. It’s like attending 20 mini-classes. Notices with details will go out on the Guild listserv in Nov. – Jan. If you’ve never participated, please consider it!

NCAAG at Strathmore Mansion: A Celebration of 45 Years, Recap

The Guild’s fall exhibit, NCAAG: A Celebration of 45 Years, lived up to its name—it celebrated glass and showcased a diversity of styles and techniques that reflected the broad range of glass techniques used by NCAGG members. Set on the second floor of Strathmore’s mansion, sun flooding the rooms enhanced the airy, fresh feeling of works that ranged from stained glass and mosaics to kiln-formed and blown glass.

The three jurors for the show were: Michael Janis, Co-Director of the Washington Glass School & Studio, Kirsty Little, sculptor and art activist and Eileen Martin, stained and fused glass artist. They selected the 57 pieces

that fill the Mansion's upstairs galleries. The show included 28 pedestal-mounted pieces, 27 wall-hung artworks and one piece of jewelry.



Guests overflowed the galleries and glasswork glistened at the Sept. 14 opening reception. [Click here to see the virtual tour of this exhibit.](#)

Upcoming NCAGG Programs

by Becky Snider

November 19 Meeting: April Rimpo - Artist Marketing via Zoom 2-3:30 pm



In addition to her award-winning painting, our speaker for the NCAGG November meeting, April Rimpo is also known for sharing her marketing expertise with other artists. For our November meeting on marketing, she will talk about how we can market our glass work through our own websites, blogs and social media. She will also cover the importance of writing our own newsletters and discuss the options we have to distribute and maintain them. April is adept on various platforms on Facebook and Instagram and will discuss the pros and cons of these vehicles.

2024 NCAGG Meetings

January 21 - Share Meeting

February 25 - TBD

March 17 - Magless

April 24 - Imagine Museum Virtual Tour

May 19 – Michael Janis

June 9 - Picnic/Share at Glen Echo

July 21- Carien Quiroga

August 18 - Stephen Brucker

September 22 - Bullseye Special Projects

October 6 - Annual Meeting/Auction

November 17- Virtual tour of Gallery B show

Anyone who has ideas for topics or speakers for future Guild meetings, please contact Becky Snider at becsnider@hotmail.com

Member Happenings



Andrew Lang is delighted to report he's moved from having no galleries showing his work to two galleries representing him. Both galleries are in Seattle. The [Seattle Glassblowing Studio](#) has a wonderful display of different types of studio glass for sale, and features a large and well-furnished workshop on the premises. The [Vetri Gallery](#) has showcased the work of extraordinary artists and designers since 1996 with roots in the studio glass movement. Vetri focuses largely on innovative contemporary glass artists' work. They also show the work of ceramic artists, independent jewelry designers and exceptional objects in all media.

Maryellen Hains is showing in a mixed media exhibition, PHOTOSYNTHESIS II, at the [Richmond Center for the Visual Arts](#) at Western Michigan University from August to November, 2023. The exhibit is one element of the PHOTOSYNTHESIS PROJECT, which produced a book, PHOTOSYNTHESIS II: a companion, in conjunction with an accompanying show, Ekphrastic Exhibition, that opened in September at the Ninth Wave Studio. These pieces are an ekphrastic response to some of the ideas explored in the multi-year project. Included in the book is "Beginnings," Maryellen Hains' response to Joe Smigiel's poem "Cryogenian."



Merrilee Harrigan's artwork Golden Wood Series #5 has been accepted into the [Workhouse Glass National Show 2023](#), which runs from Nov. 4 through Jan. 14, with an opening reception on Nov. 11 from 6-8 pm. The 17- by 12- inch wall piece combines clear reactive glass with silver foil and silver filings to create all the colors in this woodland scene. The show also accepted a jewelry piece, but Merrilee says couldn't resist a request to purchase it from someone who'd seen it before she submitted to the show. Fortunately, the Workhouse staff were understanding!



Michelle Rial will be featured in the gallery section of the upcoming "Women in Glass" issue of The Flow magazine in December. In addition, Michelle Rial's fusing "Calm Waters" has been accepted into the 47th Mid-States Craft Exhibition at the [Evansville Museum](#) in Evansville, Indiana, which runs from Nov. 24 to Mar. 17, 2024.

Nancy Weisser Retires

By Tamah Graber

In September, after 31 years of providing so much support to the DC metropolitan glass community at the Weisser Glass Studio, Nancy Weisser retired to pursue her own path and her own art. Nancy has supplied glass, support and inspiration to the glass community for all of those 31 years, offering a wide range of classes taught by her and nationally and internationally known glass artists. She broadened the knowledge about glass of so many working glass artists and connoisseurs and opened the door to people new to glass to help improve their knowledge and skills. We wish her well in all her endeavors, and we hope she will consider taking an active role in the Guild.

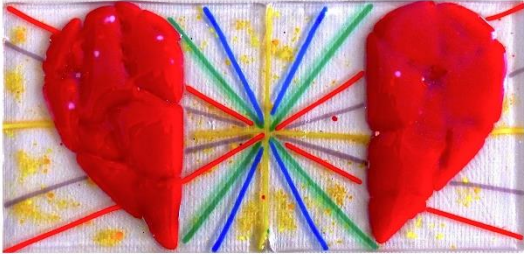


The good news is that the Weisser Glass studio continues in the capable hands of Sharon Moffitt and Rachel Brooks, formerly manager and assistant manager at Weisser. Sharon graduated from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and was the studio manager for over 21 years. Rachel has been working at Weisser Glass Studio since 2010. They have been instrumental in both running the studio and maintaining the high standard of service that we have all come to expect. Best wishes to both of them, and we will see them often.

Our Amazing American Veteran Artists

By Beryl Brenner

My veteran father was a firm believer in the arts. He took me to many museums in our hometown of New York City. From the time I was a little girl feverishly studying, I always knew that art gives people the opportunity to “tell their story” because not everyone is eloquent when it comes to verbalization. This is particularly true of veterans who have lived through events that most of us cannot imagine.



I graduated with a couple of art degrees into a recession and could not find a job. Out of nowhere, I saw an opening for an arts and crafts director at Ft. Hamilton in Brooklyn. I became the only person in NYC who had the job title of arts and crafts director for an army base. I walked onto the worksite and knew that if I could work with veterans, I would be grateful every day of the rest of my career.



I made sure that the center offered diverse media, and I taught stained glass among other things. Although I currently make fused glass art, 50 years ago, I studied stained glass with one of the two founding fathers of NYC’s urban glass movement, Erik Erikson, and I wanted to teach it to the veterans. The Army’s Chaplin school was nearby and there was a lot of interest from them and other clients.



After 12 years I switched over to the VA and became a creative arts therapist for 28 years. I worked with professional teams that treated a wide range of diagnoses. I was witnessing real pain. I wanted to do something, but what could I do? Apparently, a lot because in NYC art rules. I witnessed my clients making amazing, authentic artwork. I began to coordinate with important cultural institutions, and by the time I was finished, my clients had shown their works in some of the town’s top museums, public art exhibits and galleries. There was

never any pressure to show their work if they did not want to do so.

In 2017, I was approached by NYC’s oldest arts club, the Salmagundi Club, to make a presentation. I chose glass as the medium and “I Dream of Peace” as the theme. I also led a panel discussion of the artists. It was thrilling to see a packed house. Then one week before Christmas, I collaborated with the flagship Microsoft Center, and, opposite the famous Rockefeller Center tree, images of my clients’ artwork flashed on large screens for the public to enjoy. The Peace Series was included in this display alongside many other works.

I was so grateful to do this fulfilling work. When I retired in 2018, I gave 800 visual images of clients’ work along with the individual signed veteran’s consent forms and the explanatory documents for an impressive list of exhibitions to the Brooklyn Collection. This is the Brooklyn Public Library’s historical archives. Long after we are gone, these examples of their astonishing artistic journey will live on for all future generations. They were indeed the veteran artists of their time. They went from often feeling ignored to feeling like rock stars because they were! And their favorite medium was GLASS.

The Imagine Museum: A Haven for Glass Art

by Suzanne Parisi

For artists, museums are often a source of inspiration, a sanctuary of creativity and a treasure trove of knowledge. Recently, I had the privilege of visiting the Imagine Museum in Tampa, Florida, and as a glass artist myself, this experience was energizing. This remarkable museum is dedicated to showcasing the beauty and innovation of glass artistry, making it a must-visit destination for artists and art enthusiasts alike.

Located in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg, the Imagine Museum stands as a testament to the remarkable world of contemporary glass artistry. Founded in 2016 by glass art enthusiasts, this museum boasts an extensive collection of over 500 pieces, showcasing the incredible versatility of glass as a medium for artistic expression.



Upon entering the museum, I was immediately captivated by the stunning glass sculptures on display. From delicate blown glass creations to intricate fused glass designs, the Imagine Museum celebrates the boundless possibilities that glass offers to artists. It was truly a feast for the eyes.

One of the museum's most striking features is its diverse collection, spanning various styles, techniques and time periods. From the translucent beauty of Dale Chihuly's iconic chandeliers to the thought-provoking contemporary works by emerging glass artists, the Imagine Museum takes visitors on a journey through the evolution of glass art.

As a glass artist, I was particularly drawn to the innovative techniques and artistic vision displayed in the contemporary glass art section. It was inspiring to witness how artists are pushing the boundaries of what can be achieved with glass, experimenting with color, form and texture to create pieces that are both visually stunning and conceptually rich.

The Imagine Museum aims to educate and engage its visitors. Throughout the museum, interactive exhibits and educational materials provide insights into the history and science of glass art. From the ancient techniques of glassblowing to the modern methods of kiln-firing and sand casting, visitors can gain a deeper appreciation for the craftsmanship behind these works of art.

In addition to its permanent collection, the museum hosts temporary exhibitions that showcase the work of renowned glass artists from around the world. These exhibitions provide visitors with the opportunity to experience a wide range of glass art styles and techniques, keeping the museum's offerings fresh and exciting.

My visit to the Imagine Museum in Tampa was a truly enriching experience as a glass artist. The museum's dedication to celebrating the beauty and innovation of glass artistry is evident in its diverse collection, interactive exhibits, and commitment to education. Whether you're an artist seeking inspiration or an art enthusiast eager to explore the world of glass art, the Imagine Museum is a great destination that will leave you with a newfound appreciation for the limitless possibilities of glass works.

As I left the museum, I couldn't help but feel reinvigorated and inspired to return to my own glass studio filled with ideas and a renewed sense of creativity.



Factory Visits

by Suzanne Parisi

A Visit to HIS Glasswork in Asheville, NC

Asheville, with its vibrant arts scene and breathtaking natural surroundings, is the perfect setting for a glass art adventure. Asheville is a destination well known for its robust artist culture. There are a multitude of studios and galleries to investigate filled with all kinds of art. For any glass artist, another worthy destination to add to your list is a stop at HIS Glassworks, so, on a recent trip to Asheville, I took an hour or so one afternoon to track down [HIS Glassworks](#) at 2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 19.



While located in an out of the way warehouse district, it was a great experience walking through the HIS Glassworks warehouse and seeing both the studio spaces and manufacturing in action. Elise Stephan the shop manager was kind enough to take time out of her day to show me around. If you are going to be in the area, I suggest calling in advance. They have a small but very friendly staff and are happy to walk you through their robust workshop and manufacturing facility. They are generally open 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Mon. through Fri. but close daily from Noon to 1:00 pm for lunch. Artists coming to the area can bring their own glass pieces and rent studio time including use of any of their coldworking equipment.

HIS Glassworks started as a hot glass shop in the early '80s creating paperweights and larger sculptural pieces. When the artists making laminated optical sculptures moved into the area in the late '80s, the shop developed diamond laps to achieve a flatter surface for laminations than were possible with slurry grinding. This began His Glassworks' diamond tool division. Over the years, HIS Glassworks has expanded their offerings from the coldworking tools customers requested to stocking over a thousand products. While specializing in coldworking glass, HIS Glassworks now offers much more—from grinding, machinery, surfacing, abrasives, polish, gear and reference materials. If you are coming to the Asheville area and have any unique coldworking challenges, I suggest you contact HIS Glassworks to see if you can arrange time in their workshop. At the very least, pick up a copy of their 96-page catalog.



A Journey Through Wissmach Glass Company

Are you eager to explore the inner workings of a world-renowned glass manufacturer? Look no further than [Wissmach Glass Company](#) in Paden City, WV, approximately a 5-hour drive from the metro DC area. If you coordinate with them by calling (304) 337-2253 at least 2 weeks in advance, they are happy to give you a tour of the working factory. Be prepared to dress appropriately and step carefully throughout the actively working manufacturing and warehouse facility. Wissmach makes both stained glass and a line of 96 COE fusible glass.

Our tour of the Wissmach Glass Company was fun and inspiring. We were fortunate to be guided through our tour by Plant Manager Pete Javier. I was inspired by the wide selection of dazzling glass colors and textures as we began in the show room filled with hundreds of glass samples. As you step inside the industrial factory, you're immediately captivated by the kaleidoscope of colors and the number of glassmaking processes.



I was mesmerized watching the large glowing gathers of molten glass being pulled out of the furnaces, manually mixed and formed into large glowing sheets. The 13 furnaces heat compounds mixed with limestone, soda ash and sand to 2,200°F (1,200°C) using natural gas. You will see skilled workers mixing molten glass by hand in a unique blend of 2 to 3 colors with varying degrees of transparency before it is rolled out and annealed. The production facility produces a full sheet of glass around every 90 seconds, producing over 13,000 square feet of glass daily. The company employs over 40 employees. Ninety-nine percent of sales are outside West Virginia, with 40% international sales.



Established in 1904, the Wissmach Glass Company has stood as a symbol of quality and artistry in the glass industry for over a century. Nestled in the picturesque town of Paden City, West Virginia, the company has flourished under the guidance of skilled craftsmen and visionary leaders from its early days as a modest family-owned glasswork facility to its present stature as a globally recognized brand.

Wissmach was acquired by Jason Wilburn and Annabelle Javier in 2021. Touring the factory, you will see the many recent investments the new ownership has made to proactively update the plant's ecological impact and to improve worker safety and comfort. The company participates in the Jobs & Hope program, providing job training and employment to those recovering from substance abuse, to help build its skilled West Virginia workforce.



For a glass artist, no factory tour would be complete without a visit to the warehouse where Wissmach offers a huge selection of glass for sale. I spent a couple hours in the warehouse cutting and boxing about 50 pounds of glass for a variety of future projects. When selecting your glass, be prepared for hot or cold temperatures depending on the time of year, as you will be working in the warehouse. You need to bring all of your own glass cutting, handling and packing tools, but it is a unique opportunity to purchase high quality glass at bargain

prices! Hobby glass includes larger project pieces and is priced at \$1.50 per pound. They also have short sheets and small squares in a variety of prices as well.

Classes Members Have Taken

Art and Meditation in Mandalas

by Lara Heubusch-Debnar



Karen Wilson and Nancy Weisser create a beautiful space physically and internally to let the art flow. I joined the *Mandalas in Glass* with Karen Wilson and Nancy Weisser class as a long-time qi gong practitioner, but I was completely new to the art of glass. I had never cut, pulled or heated glass before, and I certainly had never made artwork from it.

With Karen's carefully planned instruction, and guided meditation, I was able to "see" an image within and then use the medium of glass to create a mandala as the physical representation. Nancy shared her art studio and deep expertise as an artist to teach the skills required to actually work with glass. I highly recommend this retreat-styled mandala class whether you are a long-time creative or totally new to qi gong, meditation or glass. Come with an open mind and heart and leave with a beautiful representation of "Self" made from glass.

Telling the Story in Glass: Fused Glass Sgraffito

by Suzanne Parisi

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending a three-day workshop at Weisser Glass Studio, *Telling the Story in Glass: Fused Glass Sgraffito*, led by the incredibly talented Kelly Crosser-Alge. One of the most remarkable aspects of this class was Kelly's ability to break down her artistic expertise and complex artistic concepts into well organized and accessible steps to follow. Kelly's techniques do not require any special tools, as she often demonstrates using her fingers, a business card and a pencil. When working with glass powder, Kelly educates artists on everything from composition, value, color selection and even how an awareness of anatomy can bring a new life to pieces. Her approach was unique and refreshing, inspiring each of us to use simple tools to manipulate glass powder to bring our unique visions to life. Kelly provided concise demonstrations, gave each artist plenty of creative time and was readily available for questions and one-on-one coaching.

As we delved into the hands-on part of the class, Kelly's guidance was invaluable. She walked us through various sgraffito techniques, showing how and when to build up and take away glass powder with a keen eye for detail and safety.



We had the opportunity to incorporate the techniques into a wide variety of pieces of our choosing. The result was a collection of glass art pieces that were not only visually stunning but also meaningful to each attendee. Throughout the class, Kelly fostered a sense of community among the participants. We shared stories, exchanged tips and cheered on each other as we watched our creations come to life.

At the end of the class, we all left with a beginning portfolio of sgraffito glass creations and a newfound appreciation for the art of sgraffito. Kelly Crosser-Alge's passion, expertise and warm personality left a positive impression on each of us. Her ability to merge the worlds of art and personal narrative was inspiring for all.

Resources: Glass Classes

Interested in taking glass classes? This is by no means a complete list, but it is a start. Left off the list below are all the marvelous tutorials and videos available on You Tube – simply search for the topic you want.

Maryland

Weisser Glass: Kensington, MD, <http://www.weisserglass.com>

Washington Glass School: Mount Rainier, MD, <http://washingtonglassschool.com/school>

The Art Glass Center at Glen Echo Park: Glen Echo, MD, <https://glenechopark.org/artglasscenter>

Glen Echo glassworks (glass blowing): Glen Echo, MD <https://glenechoglassworks.com/>

Visarts Center: Rockville, MD, <https://www.visartscenter.org>

Anything in Stained Glass (stained and fused glass): Frederick, MD, <https://www.anythinginstainedglass.com/html/classes.html>

McFadden Art Glass: Baltimore, MD, <https://mcfaddenartglass.com/>

The Artists' Corner: Belaire, MD, <https://artistscornerstainedglass.com/classes/>

Coradetti Glass Blowing Studio: Baltimore, MD, <https://corradetti.com/workshops/>

Virginia

Maverick Mosaics: Vienna, VA, <https://maverickmosaics.com/workshops/>

The Art League: Alexandria, VA, <https://www.theartleague.org/>

Sincerely Yours (stained glass): Occoquan, VA, <https://www.yourstainedglass.com/>

Workhouse Art Center: Lorton, VA, <https://www.workhousearts.org/visual-arts-classes>

Chrysler Museum of Art: Norfolk, VA, <https://chrysler.org/glass/glass-studio-classes-and-workshops/glass-studio-beginner-classes/>

Other suggestions

Pilchuck Glass School: Stanwood, WA, [Pilchuck Glass School](#)

Bullseye Glass: online and resource centers around the US <https://bullseyeglass.com>

Corning Museum of Glass: Corning, NY, <https://home.cmog.org/>

Urban Glass: Brooklyn NY, <https://urbanglass.org/>

Pittsburgh Glass Center: Pittsburgh, PA, <https://www.pittsburghglasscenter.org/>

Wheaton Village: Millville, NJ, [WheatonArts » Explore, Experience, Create](#)

Penland School of Crafts: Penland, NC, [Glass – Penland School of Craft](#)

Haystack Mountain School of Crafts: Deer Isle, ME, [Haystack Mountain School of Crafts \(haystack-mtn.org\)](#)

Snow Farm, The New England Craft Project: Williamsburg, MA, [Snow Farm | The New England Craft Program](#)

Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts: Gatlinburg, TN, [Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts](#)

Ed Hoy's Art Glass and Supplies: Warrenville, IL, <https://www.edhoy.com/>

Oatka Glass Studio: Burnsville, NC, [Oatka Glass Studio - Amanda Taylor](#)

Online Classes

Bullseye Glass <https://www.bullseyeglass.com/>

Warm Glass UK [Glass School \(glass-school.co.uk\)](#)

AAE Glass <https://www.fusingparty.com/>

Webinars at Glass Patterns Quarterly [Home \(glasspatterns.com\)](#)

Questions? Need more information, or help?

2024 NCAGG Board Members

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Show Committee	Elaine Byergo	byergoem@gmail.com
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