



The Glass Art Society 2018 Award Recipients

by Tess McShane

Each year, the Glass Art Society (GAS) acknowledges individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the development of the glass arts worldwide. The 2018 awards will be presented at the GAS Conference opening ceremonies in Murano, Italy, on Thursday, May 17.



Livio Seguso

Livio Seguso

The GAS Lifetime Achievement Award for Exceptional Artistic Achievement and Contributions to the Studio Glass Field has been awarded to Livio Seguso. During his long and successful career, Seguso's artistic and material investigation into form and optics has demonstrated his extraordinary talent and capabilities in using glass as a medium for sculpture. The artist fully reveals the infinite potentialities of glass in an endless variation of spaces and thicknesses, always aiming at an absolute purity of forms.

Born in 1930 in Murano where he still works, Seguso began his lifelong affair with glass from a very early age, fascinated by the inexhaustible appeal of the medium. He reached his full artistic maturity in the late 1970s, when he totally abandoned the pathway of the Murano glassmaking heritage and began to focus on clear crystal glass, changeable and ambiguous in its transparency, and a perfect medium for his uncontaminated imaginative vision.

Seguso's sculptures manifest themselves in forms of absolute purity that are nonmimetic and nonrepresentational of anything. His sculptures thus become *Images of Light* that seem to adapt themselves to thought only to fade away into a series of oneiric forms. In recent years, his artistic research has overstepped the confines of glass as he has experimented with other materials including steel, rock, marble, granite, and more recently wood. His artwork also took a departure from his previous rounded or elliptical forms and contains more volume and a geometric pattern.



Pino Signoretto

Pino Signoretto

The Lifetime Achievement Award for Exceptional Achievement and Contributions to the Studio Glass Field will be awarded posthumously to Pino Signoretto. The artist was born in 1944 in a small town near Venice and began working at a chandelier glassworks in 1954. In 1959 Signoretto learned from the great masters Alfredo Barbini, Livio Seguso, Ermanno Nason and Angelo Seguso. He became a master glassmaker in 1960 at the age of 16, and in 1978 he opened his own studio in Murano, Italy.

Signoretto went to Aumori in Japan by invitation in 1985, thus beginning a long series of trips to Japan. On his second visit he gave a demonstration in the presence of the imperial family. He has a permanent exhibition at the Museum of Venetian Art in Otaru, Japan.

Throughout the years, Signoretto collaborated with artists and architects around the world including Dalí, Vedova, Licata, Kruff, Dal Pezzo, Vitali, Pomodoro, Willson, Koons, Kummer, Vercruysse, Quinn, Chihuly, and more. He also taught at several glass schools in the United States and worldwide and was a beloved mentor to countless glass artists, young and old. He was known for experimenting and encouraging students to push the boundaries.

Maestro Signoretto died suddenly in Murano on December 30, 2017, at the age of 73. He knew he had been chosen for this award prior to his death. The glass community mourns his passing but is eternally grateful for the art and legacy he leaves behind.



Benjamin P. Moore

Benjamin P. Moore

GAS is honored to acknowledge Benjamin Moore with the **Visionary Award** for artists who have shown exceptional vision in the development of studio glass. In 1975, Moore joined the staff of the fledgling Pilchuck Glass School. His profound influence there as faculty member, education coordinator, artistic director, interim executive director, and member of the Board of Trustees has lasted over 40 years.

Moore was born in Olympia, Washington, in 1952. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from California College of the Arts and a Master in Fine Arts from Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). Moore has done design work at Venini, Murano, Italy; J & L Lobmyer, Vienna, Austria; and Fostoria Glass Company, Moundsville, West Virginia.

After meeting and working with Muranese glass master Checcho Ongaro at Venini, Moore invited him to teach at Pilchuck in the summer of 1978. He invited Ongaro the following summer but the artist declined, suggesting his brother-in-law Lino Tagliapietra instead. Tagliapietra came to Pilchuck in 1979 and has taught there for many years since. His influence and that of many other Muranese masters has been profound.

Moore's vision and insight into inviting these masters plus his love for Venetian glass and an understanding of Venetian techniques as a versatile craft language have helped raise American studio glassmaking to a new level. He continues to live and work in Seattle, Washington, and is the owner of Benjamin Moore, Inc. (BMI), where he and his wife Debora Moore produce their work.



Durk Valkema

Durk Valkema

GAS is pleased to present Durk Valkema with the **Lifetime Membership Award** for artists who have shown outstanding service to the Glass Art Society. Valkema comes from a well-known family of glass artists from the Netherlands. He served on the GAS Board of Directors from 1999 through 2003 and in 2002 was the chair of the first European GAS conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands, producing it, in full partnership, with a host organization he helped to create. He also co-founded the Glas Amsterdam 2002 Foundation, a nonprofit entity that helped to secure funding for the conference and brought together artists, designers, and scientists to help realize experimental and innovative glass projects.

Born in 1951, Valkema attended the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam where he studied under his father, Sybren Valkema, founder of the school's program. In 1974, he studied and worked with Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslavla Brychtová at the Academy of Applied Arts in Prague, the Czech Republic, as the first foreign student from a non-Warsaw Pact nation.

Since the 1970s, Valkema has gained a strong reputation as a furnace builder pioneering energy efficient solutions. He was on the first Green Glass panel at the Seattle conference in 2003, discussing the environmental impact of studio glass activities and promoting greater energy efficiency, and has been a regular member of that panel at subsequent conferences. His broad technical and practical knowledge, in combination with aesthetic insight, has made Valkema an important resource in the development of competitive and technically innovative design for art glass and product design.

GAS

Glass Art Society is a nonprofit whose mission is to encourage excellence, advance education, promote the application and development of glass arts, and support the worldwide community of artists who work with glass. For more information visit www.glassart.org.

© Copyright 2018 by Glass Art. All rights reserved.