

GAS + British Glass Biennale New Partnership and Award Supports Worldwide Innovation and Collaboration



Attendees at the British Glass Biennale.

"We are thrilled with this new partnership! Supporting artists from all over the globe is at the core of the Glass Art Society's mission. Working with the International Festival of Glass for the British Glass Biennale is another meaningful step in our evolving organization."
— Brandi Clark, Interim Executive Director, Glass Art Society

by Tess McShane for the Glass Art Society

Photos Courtesy of the Glass Art Society

Recently, the Glass Art Society announced that it will sponsor an *International Artists Award* prize at the British Glass Biennale in August 2019. This award marks the start of an exciting new collaboration with the British Glass Biennale—one that shows GAS is committed to strengthening and broadening its reach and is excited to develop new and meaningful relationships with glass artists and organizations around the globe.

"This is a momentous occasion for the Biennale, and I am so delighted with this new collaboration," says Janine Christley, Director of the International Festival of Glass. "GAS was such an inspiration when we launched the British Glass Biennale, and I have long admired the organization's commitment to glass artists across the world."

British Contemporary Glass Artists Shine

The British Glass Biennale, a part of the Ruskin Mill Trust, is the foremost juried exhibition of excellence in contemporary glass by British artists, designers, and craftspeople in the U.K. The British Biennale has also quickly sealed its reputation as the U.K.'s most comprehensive selling exhibition of contemporary glass among not only glassmakers, but also among glass enthusiasts and national and international glass collectors. As the reputation of the British Glass Biennale has steadily grown, so has its audience, with more than 6,000 visitors from all over the world attending the biannual event.

The theme of the 2019 British Glass Biennale is "Placemaking." This design approach puts people at the center and develops a sense of belonging. Placemaking explores how the spaces we create are influenced by the landscape, the climate, and the diverse people around us. The festival will engage with this theme in the widest sense through technology, science, art, and imagination, encouraging a culture of participation where anyone can join in.



Martin Janecký at work.

A Stellar New Partnership

The winning artwork will be chosen by members of the GAS Board of Directors including the following: Natali Rodrigues (President), Tracy Kirchmann and Jessica Julius, (Co-Vice Presidents), Heather McElwee (Treasurer), Kelly Conway (Secretary), Glen Hardyman, Mike Hernandez, Nadania Idriss, Jeff Lindsay, Lynn Read, Debra Ruzinsky, Masahiro "Nick" Sasaki, Jan Smith, Demetra Theofanous, David Willis, and Caitlin Vitalo.

The award honoree will be announced at the opening ceremony of the British Glass Biennale on August 22, 2019. The award includes a monetary gift and an invitation to present at the GAS conference in 2020. The honoree will also benefit from joint promotions by GAS, the British Glass Biennale, and the International Festival of Glass.

This new partnership between the Glass Art Society and the British Glass Biennale, as well as the relationships built from international conferences held in the past and those planned for the future, represents the GAS Board of Director's hopefulness and willingness to expand, strengthen, and broaden its reach worldwide. "We are thrilled with this new partnership," says Brandi P. Clark, Interim Executive Director. "Supporting artists from all over the globe is at the core of the Glass Art Society's mission. Working with the International Festival of Glass for the British Glass Biennale is another meaningful step in our evolving organization."

The British Glass Biennale private viewing and awards ceremony takes place August 22, 2019. The event opens August 23 and closes September 28, 2019. For more information about the British Glass Biennale, follow the event on Twitter @BritishGlassBiennale or go to www.rmlt.org.uk/news/british-glass-biennale. **GA**

To become a member or to learn more about the Glass Art Society, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, or Instagram @glassartsociety, or visit www.glassart.org.

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