

Digital Distance

Discovering Approaches to Digital Technology through Glass Art

by Pam Reekie

A new exhibition, *Digital Distance—Approaches to Digital Technology*, was launched by the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) on the organization's website gallery on May 20, 2019. This online exhibition features 22 pieces of glass art that will be on permanent display after first being featured in the central gallery through May 25.

In the *Digital Distance* exhibition, selected CGS glass artists were invited to utilize new technologies that are within digital fields in order to propose some exciting new work. The techniques that were used challenged the delicacy of processes that have evolved within the parameters of digitally sensitive artistry. This work leaves ever-evolving thoughts in the viewer's mind.

Defining Digital Technology

What do we mean by digital technology? It can include digital production technologies such as computer assisted design (CAD) and CNC manufacturing, which includes multi-axis milling, laser cutting, 3-D prototyping, computer assisted manufacture, and other similar technologies. It can also include digital audio, imagery, and video, as well as works that sum up digital technology such as pixilation.

The 22 selected glass artists all demonstrate a variety of techniques, transferring ideas and developments to the glass piece, sensations, and emotions. The alluring work in this exhibition is not solely based on technique and technology, however.

Using Digital Technology

CGS glass artist Jacqueline H-Botquelen retells the "Little Snow White" fairy tale based on Jung's analytical psychology through her work, *White Fox Fairy Tales*. Jacqueline's endeavors speak of the interconnections between little girls, their mothers, and their fathers that delve into the collective unconscious. Her fragile digital images involve a ceramic glaze being applied before and after investing the forms with glass frits while they are still humid.

Artist Jessie Lee captures light and superb subtle shapes in *Hurricane* by manipulating photographs taken from space before digitally crafting a 3-D form using CAD software. Shadows bounce off the gentle undulations of polished surfaces.

The *Modern Love Letter Series* by Sophie Longwill captures snippets of everyday life in delicate pâte de verre glass. These pieces are a playful examination of romance in the digital age, where handwritten love notes are replaced by text messages. As modern relationships are increasingly conducted through digital devices, the *Modern Letter Series* acts as a record of otherwise fleeting moments.

The *Digital Distance* exhibition will surprise gallery visitors with accents, picturesque surfaces, subtle tones, and gossamer fragility. More information regarding the exhibition can be found on the CGS website.

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The Contemporary Glass Society is a charitable organization registered in the UK and is funded entirely through its members and donations from individuals and organizations. To learn more about becoming a CGS member, visit www.cgs.org.uk.



Jesse Lee, *Hurricane*.
Photo by Simon Bruntnell.



Sophie Longwill,
Modern Love Letter.



Jacqueline H-Botquelen,
White Fox Fairy Tales.
Photo by Roland Paschoff.