



Illuminating Glass Art in Sweden



Wayne Stratman, Blue Plasma Molecule Tree.

Exploring Illuminated Glass

Since the early '90s, GAS has been carving out space at the annual conference for unique exhibitions around illuminated glass art. We're working with the Glass Factory Boda in Småland for the *Upplyst Glas / Enlightened Glass Exhibition*. Featuring artists working with neon, plasma, incandescent, LED, EL wire, laser, and more, this juried exhibition will showcase GAS members from Sweden, other European countries, and across the globe.

GAS attendees will also have the opportunity to attend the "Ljus: Swedish Light & Glass Craft" presentation by Ben Orozco & Tommy Gustafsschiöld. Highlighting the history of neon, glass, and plasma techniques specific to Sweden, this demonstration will showcase processes and methods unique to the region.

"Neon Around the World" with James Akers will celebrate different techniques used for neon across the globe in his exciting lecture and demonstration. Located at the Glass Factory Boda in Småland, this presentation will be in close proximity to the only production neon shop in Sweden as well as to other countries in Europe that practice neon differently.



Percy Echols working on illuminated glass, 2019.

by The Glass Art Society Staff

Every year, the Glass Art Society (GAS) brings together the international community of glass artists and enthusiasts for a multiday conference featuring glass art from every discipline. This year, we're celebrating the 49th Annual GAS Conference in Sweden as we explore *RE:GENERATION – Innovation Through Tradition*.

Over the last decade, Swedish glassmaking has seen a resurgence, with artists developing new technologies and forging ahead with a new glass economy. One such revival has been seen in illuminated glass art, and we're excited to share a preview of what neon and plasma experiences are coming to the conference.



Historic Swedish Sign Restoration, Fröberg Skor (Fröberg Shoes), 30" x 24", double-sided neon signage from a 110-year old shoe store. Neon restoration and photo by Tommy Gustaffshöld.

Additional Conference Highlights

Where can you get the word out about illuminated glass art? Look no further than *Taming Lightning*, the podcast all about the world of glass art, scientific glass, plasma, and neon. Percy Echols, the podcast's creator, will present "Taming Lightning: Plasma in the Hot Shop" and share how he used Instagram to connect these diverse communities.

"Creating Large-Scale Flameworked Plasma Sculpture" by Wayne Stratman will explore the process of making large, stationary sculptures using a variety of flameworking techniques to join, blow, and stretch. Learn to defy gravity by working quickly without developing excessive strain on the glass and maintaining relatively consistent wall thickness.

As we approach our next international conference in Sweden, GAS members are also reminded of a truly memorable neon demonstration in Murano, Italy. Check out our *2018 Murano Conference Journal* for Patrick Collentine's "Magic Light of Plasma/Neon" comic, featuring special guests from The Glass Factory Boda in Sweden. While you're at the Conference, don't miss your chance to explore Sweden's "crystal kingdom" and uncover all the hidden gems that Småland has to offer.

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Shortly before *Glass Art*® went to press, GAS announced that the 2020 Conference unfortunately has been cancelled due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and will not be rescheduled. The GAS 2021 Conference has not yet been announced but will take place in the USA. Visit www.glassart.org for information on becoming a GAS member and for continuing updates on the conference and other GAS events.

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