



From Our Studio to Yours

by Kathy Jordan

The American Glass Guild (AGG) 2021 Virtual Conference was well received and pulled our glass community back together. Even during the planning stages, our Board became energized in anticipation of gathering with the AGG members and glass enthusiasts abroad. As the conference approached, weekly dry runs helped us create a tailored virtual experience. Our Conference Committee navigated the virtual platform, which had a Lobby and Break-Out Rooms where attendees could hang out and chat, our Main Stage to view and converse with the speakers, and our Expo page that led the Conference goers to our first virtual Auction. The Member's page and several interactive Sponsor Booths provided places to socialize, browse, and talk shop with our sponsors. There was also a tribute page to Mary Clerkin-Higgins, past AGG President and Founding Member of our organization.

One unique aspect of the conference was that all attendees were provided prerecorded presentations two weeks prior to the Conference. This allowed everyone to view them at their own leisure. The day of the Conference was a chance to hear the speakers talk more in depth about their work and answer questions live.

Sharing and Learning

Keynote speaker **Michael Janis** spoke about the importance of public art and changing public spaces into "people places." He discussed the process and methods the studio employed to involve community and create art that addresses cultural identity. Michael's illustrious career is inspiring, and his generous spirit and dedication to education and community can be seen at the Washington Glass School and Studio in Washington, D.C.

Peter Swanson has captured the glass community through his film making. He shared his background, his involvement with the Washington National Cathedral, and the eventual filming of the late, great glass artist, Rowan LeCompte.

Ellen Mandelbaum and **Marie Pascale Foucault-Phipps** shared the humble beginnings of The Women's International Glass Workshop founded in 1989. The original group got together as part of an exhibit called *36 Women Glass Artist from 12 Countries*, then traveled from Iceland to India, forged lifelong friendships, made art, and met every two years over the last three decades. The Rakow Library of The Corning Museum of Glass recognized its importance and accepted The International Glass Workshop's history into their archives.



*Rowan LeCompte, Job, Center Left Lancet (detail), Washington National Cathedral, Nave Clerestory.
Photo by Peter Swanson.*

On the heels of seasoned glass artists, we heard from two young glass artists, **Bethanie Zucker** and **Drayton Mapps**. Bethanie spoke about her path to becoming a stained glass conservator. She is a proud recipient of the AGG James C. Whitney Memorial Scholarship and is currently working toward her masters in Stained Glass Conservation & Heritage Management at the University of York. Drayton Mapps took us through his crash course in glass design and shared his experiences in the stained glass design course at Bryn Athyn College. Drayton shared the process from start to finish on the Kendrick Center window done in collaboration with the Kendrick Center stained glass project, *Windows That Open Doors*. This project was executed under the direction of Ken Leap, past AGG President, and included the collaboration and cooperation of several AGG members.

We learned all about the turn-of-the-century glass studio, Povey Brothers Studio and its heritage from their great-granddaughter, pastel artist **Laurie Povey Crawford**. She is inspired by her great-grandfather's work and how the exploration of his liturgical themes brings inner centeredness and spiritual reflection inside and outside of churches.

Shawn Waggoner shared the world of glass, glass artists, and compelling interviews through the *Talking Out Your Glass* podcast,

which earned the iTunes distinction rating in their News and Noteworthy section in 2018. As the podcast evolves, Shawn hosts fascinating and diverse glass artists with interviews about glass and its sustainability, impact on current topics, techniques, and technology.

George Bryant gave us an in-depth look at the great works of Henry Holiday's windows. His presentation traced the arc of Holiday's success and explained the appeal of his work in America. George showcased beautiful examples of the studio's work showing the technical and aesthetic difference that set Holiday's work apart from his contemporaries.

Art Femenella and **Amy Valuck** covered restoration topics from environmental glazing, meeting new energy codes and preserving our stained glass heritage. Two projects were highlighted—the Tiffany Studios Resurrection window at Calvary United Methodist Church in Philadelphia and a set of sixteen Maitland Armstrong Windows from St. Paul's Chapel at Columbia University, NYC. Although Tiffany and Armstrong were contemporaries, their aesthetics and construction methods were very dissimilar, and restoring each studio's windows presented unique challenges. Art covered approaches used that updated the architectural glazing systems, and Amy shared her in-studio glass conservation process.



Henry Holiday, detail of window at Saint Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Photo by Kathy Jordan.



Exterior nighttime view of The Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York. Both photos courtesy of The Corning Museum of Glass.



Workstations in The Studio at The Corning Museum of Glass.

Welcome to the GlassZoom Virtual Classroom

Prior to all the excitement of the 2021 virtual conference, spring ushered in the AGG's first GlassZoom in mid-April. Our inaugural discussion topic was Glass Painting. Not only was it well attended by our membership, but guests from all over the United States and abroad joined the conversation as well. Our international guests came from the Netherlands, France, UK, South Africa, Canada, and Wales. Great fun and loads of glass painting conversations, chat room banter, and demonstrations held everyone's attention for nearly two hours in time zones that swung from early evening to the wee hours of the morning!

GlassZoom is more than a virtual classroom and moves beyond the realms of remote learning. This casual and energized online environment emulates the face-to-face gatherings we are known for. The result is not only a positive experience for our members and guests, but also the realization that the art glass industry remains creative and connected.

The American Glass Guild is a nonprofit organization organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes, and without question, GlassZoom supports those educational efforts and offerings. Our core mission is to work toward building an environment within the craft that both cultivates novices and facilitates experienced craftspeople and artisans to attain a higher level of expertise.

Save The Date!

The AGG is excited to announce the July 2022 AGG Conference, which will be held at The Corning Museum of Glass (CMoG) in Corning, New York. The Museum explores every facet of glass from the perspective of its unique place in art, history, culture, science and technology, craft, and design. CMoG is home to the world's most comprehensive collection of glass with more than 45,000 glass objects that span 3,500 years of glassmaking history. In addition to amazing speakers, tours, and educational opportunities, Conference goers can explore works within the Museum that range from a small Egyptian pharaoh head to enormous works by Tiffany and Chihuly.

The Conference venue is perfect for the whole family! Kids and Teens 17 and under are always free at the Museum. Admission is valid for two consecutive days, and discounts are available for college students, AAA members, seniors, and the military. Corning is centrally located in the Southern Tier of the Finger Lakes and an easy day trip to many cities.

As we roll on into the late summer and early fall months, exciting things are afoot at the AGG! We are planning a superb GlassZoom schedule and working out the logistics for speakers and workshops for the Corning 2022 Conference. We will continue to make periodic announcements through email and on our website, or find us on social media and get involved. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

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Visit www.americanglassguild.org for more information on upcoming events and how to become a member of AGG.

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