

CGS Exhibition at the Stourbridge Glass Museum

by Susan Purser Hope

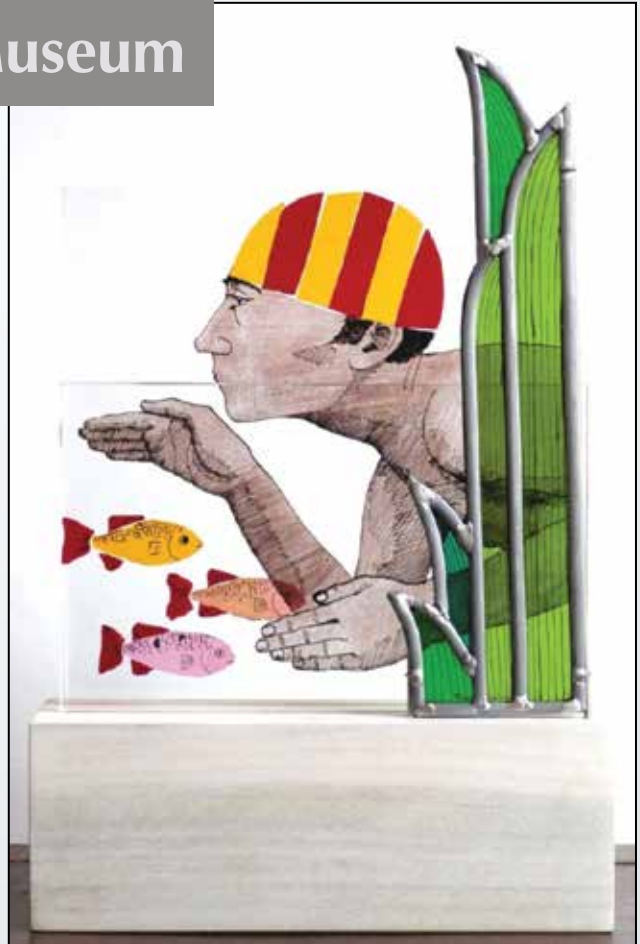
What a spectacular year 2022 is for the Contemporary Glass Society! From its humble beginnings 25 years ago, CGS has developed into a thriving and proactive society supporting a membership of over 1,100 British and international contemporary glass artists. To celebrate our quarter century representing and promoting contemporary glass, we are delighted to be showcasing a special celebratory three-month-long exhibition entitled *CGS at 25: Past, Present, the Future*, hosted by the new Stourbridge Glass Museum. The exhibition began on July 23 and will continue through October 30, 2022.

Twenty-Five Years of Change

The past 25 years have seen dramatic political, technological, environmental, and social changes and advances. This exhibition tells the history of both CGS and the world that is reflected by glass artwork covering a range of techniques selected from the past 25 years from 25 of the United Kingdom's greatest glass artists.

The artists represented in the exhibition include founding members of the Contemporary Glass Society such as Peter Layton of London glassblowing fame, the legendary Keith Cummings, who has taken kiln formed glass to new heights, and renowned casters David Reekie and Colin Reid. Also included are artist and musician Alison Kinnaird MBE, Catherine Hough, Sally Fawkes, and the beautifully engraved work of Katharine Coleman MBE.

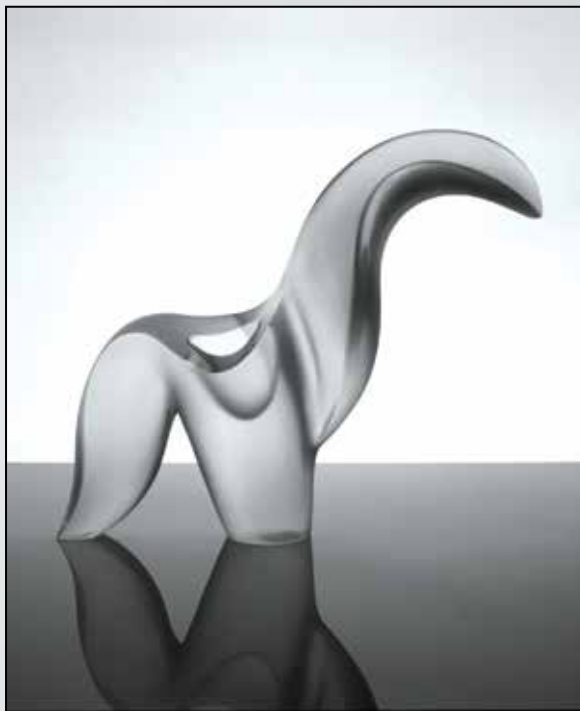
This roll call of excellence continues with the unique technical skills of Anthony Scala, Gilles Jones' sumptuous bowls, and the lost wax technique used by Angela Jarman, Max Jacquard, and Bruno Romanelli. Artists from the middle period feature Cathryn Shilling, the lampworking of Ayako Tani, and the storytelling of James Maskrey and Jo Mitchell. In addition, there are Nancy Sutcliffe's exquisite engravings and the collaboration of techniques used by Nina Casson McGarva plus Frans Wesselman, Jeff Zimmer, and Keiko Mukaide. The emerging stars of the future include Joshua Kerley and his *pâte de verre* art, Elliot Walker, winner of Netflix's *Blown Away*, and Chris Day, winner of the commission sponsored by CGS and Stourbridge Museum. Finally, we introduce our graduate winner for 2021, Erica Poyser, as a clarion call for the next generation of contemporary glass artists.



Frans Wesselman, *Swimmer III*, 2018.
Photo by the artist.



Ayako Tani, *Vision*, 2014. Photo by Jo Howell.



Catherine Hough, Mesozoic Vessel, 2002.
Photo by Kevin Nicholson.



David Reekie, Follow My Leader, 2003.
Photo by the artist.



Nina Casson McGarva, Delicate Momentum, Jaune, 2017.
Photo by the artist.



Colin Reid, Cello R1345, 2006.
Photo by the artist.

Looking to the Future

The exhibition demonstrates the development of contemporary glass processes and concepts and provides an insight into the future with work from emerging contemporary glass artists. It also reveals a diverse range of glassmaking processes including blown and cast glass, engraved and stained glass, pâte de verre, digitally cut and designed glass, lampworking, and kiln formed glass.

This cornucopia of glass delights reflects the dynamism and sheer talent of contemporary glass in this country that has blossomed over the last 25 years. *CGS at 25: Past, Present, the Future* marks a seminal moment in the creative history of the United Kingdom and is not to be missed!

The CGS is the UK's foremost organization for supporting established artists as well as up-and-coming makers and for promoting contemporary glass in the wider art world. Visit www.cgs.org.uk for more information on the Contemporary Glass Society, its upcoming events, and how to become a member. For more information on the Stourbridge Glass Museum, visit www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk.

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