

The Glass Sellers and CGS Graduate Glass Prize and New Graduate Review 2022

by Pam Reekie

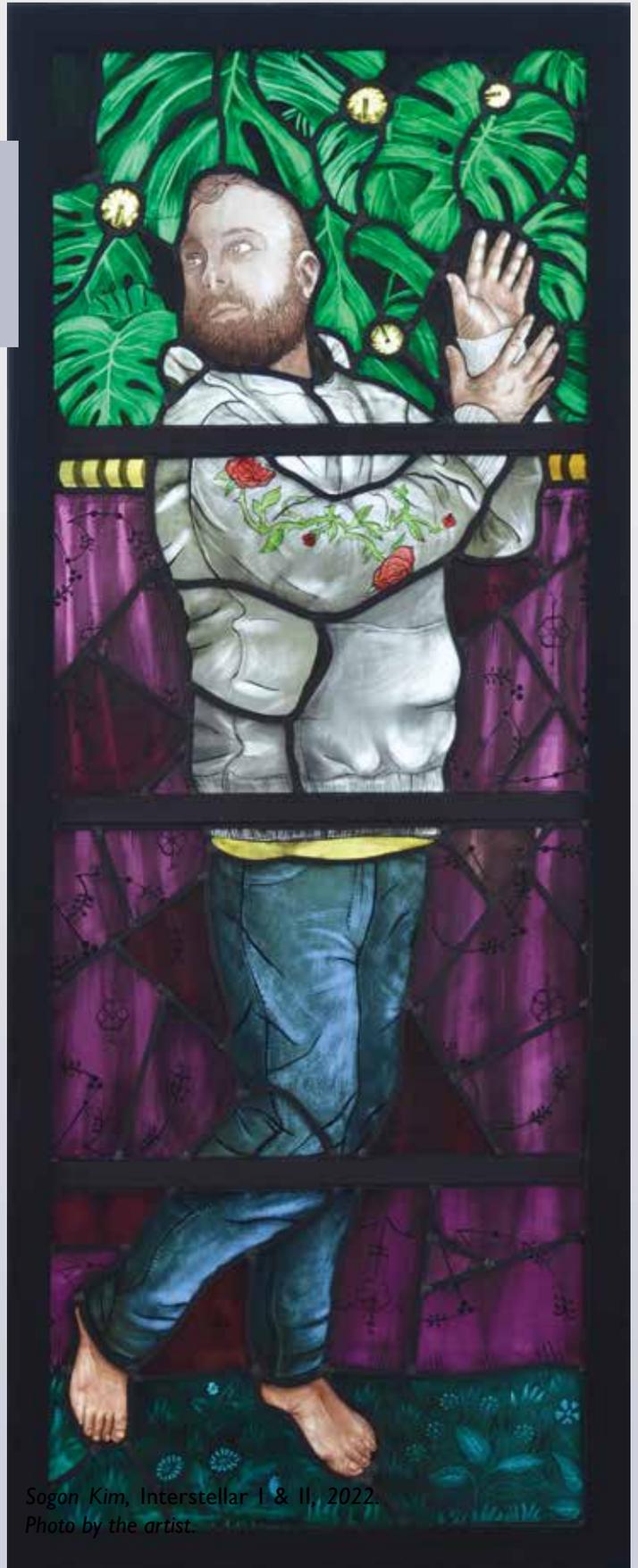
What a spectacular year 2022 has been for the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) during what the United Nations designated as the International Year of Glass 2022. From humble beginnings 25 years ago, CGS has grown over the years into a thriving and proactive society supporting a membership of over 1,100 as it supports and promotes both contemporary glass art and contemporary glass artists in the United Kingdom.

Annual Awards for Graduating UK Artists

Since part of the ambition of the Contemporary Glass Society is to support emerging graduates at the beginning of what they hope is a long career in glassmaking, the organization offers an annual Graduate Prize and publishes the *New Graduate Review*, a 16-page publication that is circulated to all CGS members and associates worldwide. It is also featured as an included supplement within *Neues Glas - New Glass: Art & Architecture* magazine.

The *New Graduate Review* gives CGS an opportunity to showcase work from the talented prize winners plus work from several more emerging British graduates. To make this possible, CGS receives funding and support from many sponsors, including the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London Charity Fund, one of the Livery Companies of the City of London. Granted a royal charter by King Charles II, today the role of the company is to stimulate interest in the many and varied aspects of glass and carry out charitable works, with a special emphasis on education.

CGS received a total of 43 applications from 13 colleges and universities, including the City Of Glasgow College, De Montfort University in Leicester, Edinburgh College Of Art-The University Of Edinburgh, Morley College London, Arts University Plymouth, Royal College of Art in London, University Centre in Hastings (East Sussex College), University for the Creative Arts at Farnham, University of Sunderland, City & Guilds of London Art School, Nottingham Trent University, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and University of Arts London (Central St Martins).



Sogon Kim, *Interstellar I & II*, 2022.
Photo by the artist.

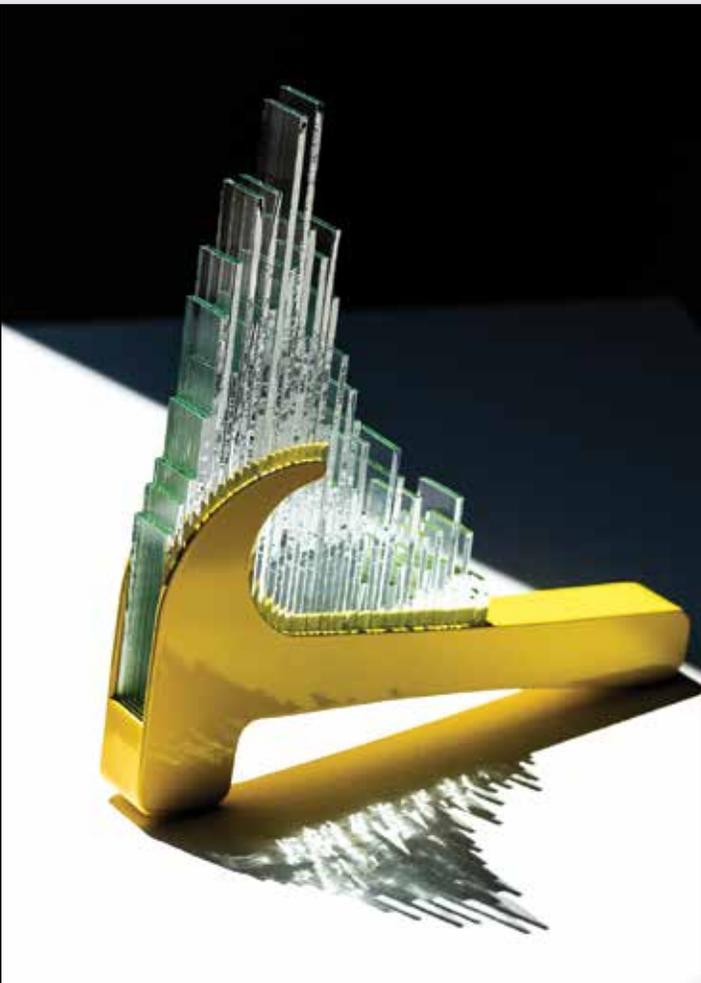
Polly Thomas-Colquhoun, *James*,
150 cm x 60 cm, 2022. Photo by the artist.

Congratulations to the Winners

As we emerge from an exceedingly difficult two years, the Contemporary Glass Society is delighted to announce the winners of the Glass Sellers/CGS 2022 Graduate Glass Prize and the graduates to be included in the 2022 *New Graduate Review*. All British and Irish students graduating from an accredited course in 2022 were eligible to enter.

The First Prize includes £500 in cash, £200 Creative Glass UK vouchers, the cover along with two feature pages in the *New Graduate Review*, and a two-year CGS membership. Alan J. Poole will provide a selection of glass-related books, including *A Passion For Glass*, and a free subscription to *Neues Glas - New Glass: Art & Architecture* magazine.

The Second Prize includes £150 in cash, a £100 voucher from Warm Glass, a year's subscription to *Neues Glas* magazine, and a one-year CGS membership. The two runners-up will each receive £50 vouchers from Pearsons Glass, a one-year CGS membership, and a free subscription to *Neues Glas* magazine.



Stephen Chadwick, *Yellow Hammer*,
30 mm x 300 mm x 300 mm, May 2022.
Photo by L. Yabsley.

Sogon Kim, *Interstellar I & II*,
2022. Photo by the artist.

Award Winners

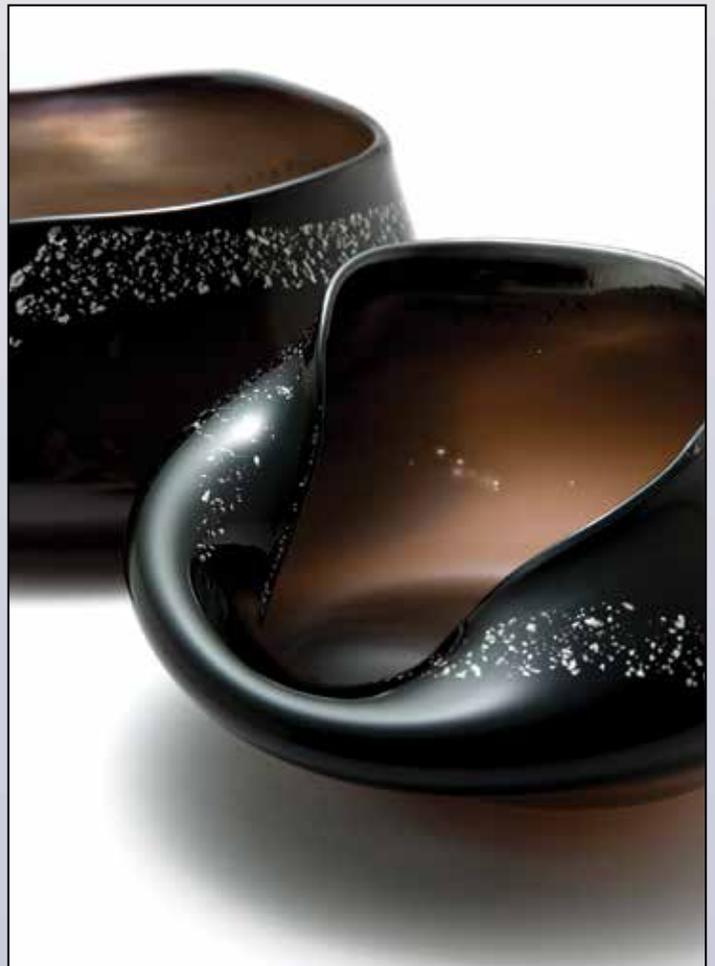
First Prize – Polly Thomas-Colquhoun,
University of Wales Trinity Saint David MA
Second Prize – Sogon Kim, Royal College of Art, London MA
Runner-Up – Eleanor Carney, University of Sunderland MA
Runner-Up – Stephen Chadwick, Arts University Plymouth BA

Highly Commended Artists

Charlott Rodgers, Edinburgh College of Art MFA Glass
Rodrigues Goncalves, University of Sunderland BA
Zoe Johnston, De Montfort University Leicester BA
Eleanor Hughes, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham BA

Commended Artists

Christina Dembinska,
University for the Creative Arts, Farnham MA
Emma Martin, University of Wales Trinity Saint David BA
Sophia Lydia Henry, University of Wales Trinity Saint David BA
Kamila Ratuszynska, Nottingham Trent University BA
Ilze Jurševica, Nottingham Trent University BA
Angela George, University of Hertfordshire BA
Tulin Bedri, University of Wales Trinity Saint David MA
Georgia Hazell, De Montfort University Leicester BA
Bonnie Mustoe-White, Arts University Plymouth BA
Valerie Bernardini, Morley College London BTEC
Shannon Baker, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham BA



Insights from the Selection Panel and First-Place Winner

The selection panel was comprised of glass artist, Bruno Romanelli; glass collector/CGS Trustee and sponsor of the prize, Michael Barnes; glass artist/CGS Trustee, Sarah L. Brown; and Chairman of Trustees of the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London Charity Fund, Leigh Baildham. The judges had a long and arduous task in selecting the four winning, four highly commended, and eleven commended graduates to be included in the *New Graduate Review*. Each panel member and the winning artist shared their thoughts on the 2022 entries.

“The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers Charity Fund is delighted to be able to support the excellent Student Award given by the CGS. I was most impressed with the quality and diversity of design styles that were submitted this year. After the challenges of the pandemic, it’s clear that inspiration abounds in our future glass artist community. Please keep up the good work.” *Leigh Baildham*

“I was delighted to be asked to be a panel judge for the graduate prize this year. It was a genuine pleasure to see the breadth of talent coming out of the UK colleges. I expected fisticuffs, but we were all in relative agreement throughout, which was a relief!

“The overall winner was unanimous and still remains in my memory as the standout entry. I’d like to recognize all of the entrants for their hard work and perseverance, two essential characteristics required to be successful as a glassmaker.”

Bruno Romanelli

“It was such a pleasure to once more judge the competition. Despite all of the problems over the last few years, there was, as ever, an excellent number of applicants with some excellent products and designs. There was a great variety of styles and techniques, but overall, there was a really good standard.

“It was not easy to pick the winners, but in the end we managed without too much argument! I hope the winners are pleased with the decisions, and the losers should not be too downhearted with such a high standard. I look forward to next year!”

Professor Michael Barnes MD, FRCP

“I’d like to thank all of the graduates who took the time to apply for the *New Graduate Review*. It was great to see the new ideas and potential that this year’s graduates shared with us. We are delighted here at the Contemporary Glass Society to be championing new graduates when courses are declining, and we will continue to support and promote glass as an exciting medium to work with in the future.” *Sarah L Brown*

Polly Thomas-Colquhoun, first-place winner for her artwork entitled *James*, shared: “I am delighted to have won the Glass Sellers/CGS prize and for all of the support that comes with it. Life as an art graduate can feel a little daunting at times, so to receive recognition for my work has filled me with confidence.

“I have such a passion for my craft and feel excited for all of the future possibilities ahead of me. As a new graduate, it is amazing to be able to get my name and work out there. Thank you CGS and The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers!”

A Showcase for Winning Art

It is vital to promote all glass education courses, as more and more creative courses are threatened with closure. This year, we had applicants from thirteen different courses. It is so important that we fight to keep these few courses going for the next generation of glass artists.

We are extremely grateful to all of our sponsors who provided financial support and Prizes for the Glass Prize and the *New Graduate Review 2022*, without whom this would not have been possible—Professor Michael Barnes MD, FRCP, The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London Charity Fund, Creative Glass UK, Pearsons Glass, Warm Glass, *Neues Glas - New Glass: Art & Architecture*, and Alan J. Poole. **GA**

The Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) is widely regarded as the foremost organization in the UK for promoting, supporting, and encouraging cutting-edge contemporary glass and glassmakers within the wider art world. Visit www.cgs.org.uk for more information on becoming a CGS member.



Eleanor Carney, Inflamed, 30 cm, 2021. Photo by Jasmine Davy.