

Everyone's a Winner at the British Glass Biennale Exhibition



Layne Rowe, *Ornithology*, 41 cm x 80 cm x 3.5 cm,
2022. Photo by Alick Cotterill.

by Susan Purser Hope

August 2022 saw the launch of the International Festival of Glass, when more than 700 guests attended the Ruskin Glass Centre in Stourbridge to enjoy the cream of British glass art. As part of this, a total of 128 glassworks by 103 artists were selected for the British Glass Biennale exhibition.

The Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) was delighted to see its members win a bevy of prizes at the Biennale. CGS is the UK's foremost organization supporting both established glass artists and up-and-coming makers. Their mission and passion is to promote contemporary glass among the art world and the wider public.

CGS Best in Show and Arts & Crafts Winners

The British Glass Biennale's Best in Show Award went to Karen Browning for her piece, *Miss.Spent-Youth*, a cast glass piece capturing the impact of a gunshot. Karen, who has always lived in a rural farming environment, creates dialogue and altered perceptions by playing with the key elements of glass, light, and space.

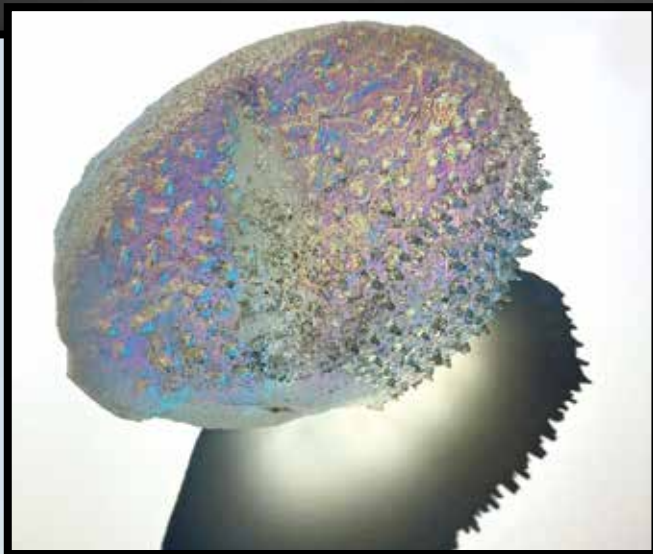
The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London selected Nina Casson McGarva's *Yellow Lichen* as their Arts & Crafts Award winner. Born in Gloucester in England, Nina grew up in rural central France, then studied at the École Nationale du Verre in Yzeure and the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. She participated in residencies in the USA and Japan before settling back into the English countryside.



Harry Chadwick, *The Drowning of Handcraft*,
20 cm x 20 cm x 11 cm, 2022. Photo by the artist.



Karen Browning,
Miss. Spent-Youth,
25 cm x 10 cm x 10 cm,
2020. Photo by the artist.



Jon Lewis, *Moon Rock*, 40 cm x 74 cm x 16 cm,
2021. Photo by the artist.



Rachel Elliott, *Maelstrom*, 30 cm x 30 cm x 10 cm,
2022. Photo by Shannon Tofts.

The judges were so impressed with the work on display that they awarded two Runner-Up prizes to the Arts & Crafts Award. These were, once again, CGS members—Layne Rowe for his piece, *Ornithology*, and Jon Lewis for *Moon Rock*.

Additional CGS Award Winners

The Glass Sellers' Student Award winner was Harry Chadwick for his piece, *The Drowning of Handcraft*. Harry joined the Royal Navy in 1980 as an Artificer Apprentice, learning hands-on workshop skills in metalwork before completing his apprenticeship as a Fitter and Turner. After many years in the service, Harry took the plunge in 2019 and enrolled in the 3-D Design Crafts BA (Hons) at Plymouth College of Art, and his excellence in his glass studies resulted in this award.

Rachel Elliott won the Glass Society Uniting the Planet Award for her piece, *Maelstrom*. Rachel works full time with kiln formed glass in her home studio in Glasgow, Scotland. She is inspired by

the intricate details of life, and her work is essentially a representational comment on the world surrounding us as well as a constant challenge to her technical abilities.

All of these glass artists come from different backgrounds and have had a range of educational experiences. They each entered the glass world at different stages in their lives and work with different glass techniques. So what do they all have in common, apart from their amazing artistic merit? They have the continuing support of the CGS glass fraternity, which not only encourages members to apply for awards but also to aspire to win a plethora of prestigious prizes!

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Visit cgs.org.uk to view exceptional contemporary glass art and find out more about becoming a member of the Contemporary Glass Society.

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