

Art Glass Association of Southern California

42nd Annual Members Exhibition

by Marti Blair



Frank Varnell

The Art Glass Association of Southern California (AGASC) was pleased to hold its 42nd annual Members Exhibition to raise funds for their scholarship fund. The exhibit was held in December 2023 at its annual location at Gallery 21, Spanish Village, in Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. AGASC is a nonprofit organization, with a goal to offer workshops and exhibits to their 135+ members each year.

The 2023 exhibition brought in eighty-five wonderful pieces, with a well-attended opening, hosted by our artist and chef Devora Safran. Members served as wait staff to ensure the visitors had a memorable evening.

This year's show chair, Krista Heron, brought in some of her beautiful work following an exhibition in Venice, Italy. The piece, named the *The Ice Furnace*, was exhibited in a gallery during Venice Glass Week 2023. Heron also generously donated a piece by Italian glass master Davide Salvatore for our Collector's Corner, which also contributes to the scholarship fund. Evie Ault, a long-time member, also donated several small pieces of Bertil Vallien's artwork! Kari Minnick, who taught a wonderful workshop for us this past November, donated a beautiful piece. Mathieu Grodet donated one of his murrine, and Karen Willenbrink-Johnsen donated an amazing blown piece as well. Karen also taught a wonderful glassblowing workshop with her husband Jasen Johnsen at our member Kathleen Mitchell's studio last summer. The efforts of everyone helped increase the scholarship fund.

Our member, Jon Simpson (who is a CPA), also a winner for his artwork, has passed his baton as our longtime treasurer to our member Diana Griffin. Jon handled setting up the art intake, spreadsheets, the judge's sheets, and labels for the artwork submitted. Cathy Coverley and Kathleen Mitchell, along with some other members, spent lots of time setting up the show. Our President, Jack Wade, was responsible for lighting the show. Krista, as show chair, worked to make sure we had the best of whatever was needed.

Krista reflects, "Finding qualified judges is a challenge every year. Our membership truly 'ups the bar' yearly! Our goal is to find a panel of judges who are not only qualified to assess the aesthetics of the design and quality of the piece, but to also recognize the varied techniques it takes to create these masterpieces.

"This year, we were honored to have Josh Hershman and Ethan Stern. Both of these worldly recognized artists are now based in Southern California, and both have extensive experience in all forms of glass. Their approach was not only technical, but they both were very focused on the aesthetics of the pieces. Our Best of Show was truly a challenge for them, between two pieces! The eventual winner, Frank Varnell's piece *Celestial Intersections* was technically and aesthetically advanced, but the runner-up, in their effort to choose a fairly new artist, was Tanner Miller, and his whimsical piece brought laughs and giggles to them both!"



David Heaney



Helen Munroe

Here are the winners of
our exhibit this last year:

Best of Show

Frank Varnell, *Celestial Intersections*

First Place

Frank Varnell, *Celestial Intersections*, Sculpture
Jon Simpson, *Red/Dichroic Stringer Fan*, Vessels
Helen Munroe, *Water's Edge*, Plates, Platters, and Shallow Bowls
Robin Brailsford, *Hurricane Sharpie*, Wall Art
Jacob Barfield, *Infinity Pendant*, Wearable Art
Susan Hirsch, *Cosmic Cactus Connection*, Mixed Media
Linda Matlis, *Jungle Garden*, Novice
Susan Hirsch, *Arctic Flow I*, Oceanside Glass and Tile Special
Bill Matulich, *Barbalone*, Coatings by Sandberg
Tanner Miller, *The Happiness Project*, Oceanside Glass and Tile,
Emerging Artist

Second Place

Robin Brailsford, *Putin's Favorite*, Sculpture
Kathleen Mitchell, *Artifact*, Vessels
David Heaney, *Grouper*, Plates, Platters, and Shallow Bowls
Krista Heron, *Surface Deep*, Wall Art
Helen Munroe, *Sunset*, Wearable Art
Kathleen Mitchell, *Metamorphosis*, Mixed Media
Ilana Gold, *Wildabeest Migration*, Novice
Jack Wade, *Angelic Turnings*, Oceanside Glass and Tile Special
Jack Wade, *Vivid Imagination*, Coatings by Sandberg
Linda Matlis, *Midcentury Inspired Mahogany & Blown Glass Lamps*,
Oceanside Glass and Tile Emerging Artist

For any other information on our association, you will find us
at www.agasc.org.

We also have a Guild that has a gallery shop in Spanish Village.
Their website is www.artglassguild.com, and all are members of
our nonprofit.

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Linda Matlis