

CGS Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary in 2017

by Pam Reekie

It's a special year for the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) during 2017 as the organization celebrates its 20th anniversary. In May 1997, a small group of enthusiastic artists, including Peter Layton and Colin Reid, gathered together to establish a new organization to represent glassmakers in the United Kingdom. CGS has grown from around 100 makers in 1997 to what is now heading toward a membership of a thousand. Today CGS not only represents U.K. artists but also has many members across Europe and the rest of the world.

Unforgettable Events

Over the past 20 years there have been many memorable events, including *Burning Fat*, commissioned for the 2007 conference, "Looking into Glass." In 2017, CGS will be celebrating its success with three exhibitions and an international conference in Bristol. There will be several online exhibitions, including an open invitation to Latin American artists.

Events will be planned to occur throughout the year with CGS Regional Hubs, with the aim to make it a year when everyone can get involved. There is also the International Festival of Glass and Glass Biennale in August 2017, which will seek to highlight many of Britain's talented artists.



David Reekie,
Daggers Drawn IV, from
the Mike Barnes collection.



Fiona Fawcett, *Erosion*

Welcoming a New Interim Chair to the Board of Trustees

CGS welcomes Susan Purser as the new chair to the Board of Trustees as Julia Stephenson stands down. Stephenson recently shared details about her time as chair. "Quite unbelievably, it is two years since I took over from Victoria Scholes as chair of CGS. I have really enjoyed the experience, but with regret, I have made the decision to step down.

"I wholeheartedly believe that the CGS board members are doing a fantastic job and will continue to do so. In 2016 our organization has been promoted by leading international galleries and publications, and there are plans underway to continue to create and deliver fantastic opportunities for all members."

Susan Purser Hope, who has been a board member for several years, is pleased to take up the role of interim chair until the AGM next year when the position will be reviewed. Hope spent most of her career as a commercial interior designer but returned to Wolverhampton University to study glass nine years ago. Most of her work has been architectural or collaborative projects promoting well-being through glass.

As Hope explains: "Having had to relocate my studio earlier in the year to a smaller unit, I am exploring new routes for my work. However, this means that I have time to become the interim chair in what will be a very busy and exciting period as we organize a variety of events to celebrate our 20th anniversary year. My aim is to ensure that all of the members find something relevant, enjoyable, and useful to them during the celebrations!"

Additional New Board Members

Hope will be joined by two more new members—Mike Barnes, a collector, and Fiona Fawcett, a fellow glassmaker. Fawcett graduated from the University of Sunderland in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts with Honors degree in Glass and Ceramics. She went on to work in an architectural glass company for a year before settling back to her native Suffolk to establish her glass studio. She specializes in kiln formed glass that is inspired by the natural landscape and maritime environment.

Fawcett explains: "I was introduced to glass relatively recently and have developed a passion for contemporary glass, admiring the technical skills and craftsmanship, and fascinated by its versatility. I am delighted to be involved with the CGS Committee and am looking forward to an exciting 20th anniversary year."

Barnes has been a collector for over 20 years. He started collecting worldwide modern studio glass, but in recent years he has focused on British makers living both in the U.K. and abroad. He has built up a collection of over 100 pieces and is now only limited by space at home. Barnes is passionate about promoting and supporting the British glass scene and is delighted to be on the CGS Board.

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Visit www.cgs.org.uk for more information on the Contemporary Glass Society's events and becoming a member.



Burning Fat, Instalation by Richard Wheeler at Eden Project.

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