

Featuring the latest from
the International Society
of Glass Beadmakers

The 2018 ISGB Gathering *Building on Past Success*

In April 2018, the International Society of Glass Beadmakers (ISGB) will mount its annual conference, The Gathering, at the South Point Hotel Casino and Spa in Las Vegas, Nevada. Building upon the overwhelming success of the 2017 Gathering, the ISGB will again partner with the Glass Craft & Bead Expo (GCBE) in order to provide participants at both events with an extraordinary glass experience.

Although the GCBE and the Gathering remain independent of one another, this partnership offers ISGB attendees the opportunity to participate in their usual educational and fun-filled conference while also being able to sample and enjoy the events offered by the Expo. GCBE registrants will gain access to the ISGB's Glass, Bead & Jewelry Bazaar and also to the Friday night Open Torch Event. The Gathering will run April 4–8, 2018, with preconference workshops beginning on Tuesday, April 3. The addition of the GCBE class offerings and a show floor packed with vendors to the ISGB offerings mean that participants will have access to diverse and novel glass-related instruction and materials that showcase virtually every topic of interest to glass enthusiasts.

Preserving the Rich Traditions of Glass Beadmaking

The ISGB is the leading organization for the promotion, education, and appreciation of the art of glass beadmaking for wearable, sculptural, and functional art. Its mission states the organization's goals: "To preserve the rich and diverse traditions of the art of glass beadmaking and glassworking techniques; promote educational initiatives and professional development; and encourage the innovative use of complementary mediums among artists and craftspeople." The Las Vegas experience is a terrific opportunity for the organization to pursue its mission because of its long-standing embrace of the glass arts and particularly because of its longtime support of the Glass Craft & Bead Expo.

In addition to the varied and exciting class offerings for 2018, there are several other notable "don't miss" aspects to this year's Gathering. Laura Donefer, prominent and celebrated glass artist, will offer up her perspective on life, art, and living with glass in her role as keynote speaker. Over her 35-year career in glass, she has become known for working with the glass medium in nontraditional and unconventional ways. She is also the creator and instigator of the wacky and exuberant Glass Fashion Shows. The Gathering will include frequent opportunities to view the video of *The Crazy Corning Glass Fashion Show* presented during the 2016 Glass Art Society Conference at the Corning Museum.



Kathleen Elliot.

This year's Special Guest Presenter is Kathleen Elliot, a significant contemporary frameworker from Northern California. She will talk about the evolution of her glass art and her recent drive to use her work to speak about and impact important social issues. Kathleen's work will also be on display on the GCBE show floor in space provided by Frantz Art Glass.



*Heather Trimlett, 2018 ISGB
Commemorative Bead artist.*



Laura Donefer.



*Sabina Boehm, Gathering
Instructor and Presenter.*

The Open Torch Experience will take place on Friday during the Gathering and is open to both ISGB and GCBE registrants. In addition to the usual opportunity to sample a large number of torches and varied tools and equipment, Karina Guevin and Cedric Ginart will be featured demonstrators for the evening. The combination of flame and fun will make it a great evening for everyone.

The Bazaar, the ISGB at Its Finest

A highlight of every Gathering is the Glass, Bead, and Jewelry Bazaar, a one day pop-up sale of member's art. A special feature of the Las Vegas Gathering will be the inclusion of the Bazaar on the GCBE show floor for one day only, Saturday April 7, 2018. The Vegas crowds will be treated to a sale of handmade artisan pieces made by Gathering attendees from around the world.

There are also a wide variety of other events at the conference to satisfy many interests. It is an opportunity for attendees to network with each other, gallery owners, collectors, technical vendors, and suppliers. It also gives technical vendors an opportunity to showcase new equipment, tools, supplies, and glass. Through demonstrations, lectures, panel discussions, and more, attendees can learn new techniques and business skills to further their glass knowledge.

Visit www.isgb.org to find out more about the International Society of Glass Beadmakers upcoming events and how to become a member.

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