

Featuring the latest from the American Glass Guild

The American Glass Guild to Rock Cleveland

by Tony Glander

The mission statement of the American Glass Guild (AGG) is, “Encouraging and Promoting the Creation, Conservation, and History of Stained, Leaded, and Decorative glass.” To accomplish this, the AGG is planning an outstanding conference for June 22–24, 2018, in Cleveland, Ohio. The city that hosts the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame bustles with a creative spirit much like that of the AGG. The talks, demonstrations, and workshops will take care of the creation, conservation, and history. In addition, plans include plenty of social time for attendees to get acquainted with fellow members.

Informative Workshops

This year’s workshops will give your creativity a workout! Full-day workshops will be offered Thursday, June 21, with half-day workshops on Friday, June 22. Graham Fox of Whitney Studios will teach an informative class on stained glass repair. Sasha Zhitneva will be offering “Glass as a Painterly Medium,” a fused glass workshop that will explore the viscosity, weight, and chemistry within fused glass art.

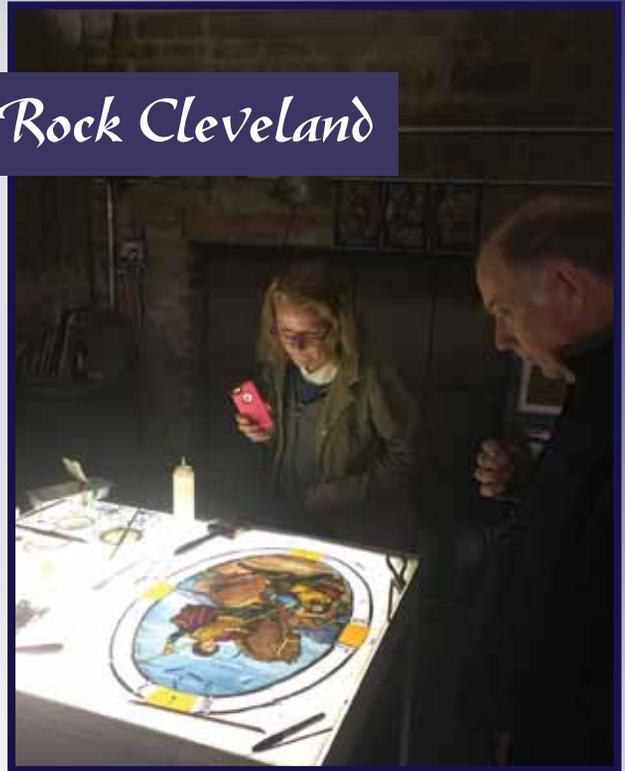
The Glass Bubble Project is a unique studio offering both glassblowing and welding classes, which will consist of a morning of glassblowing followed by an afternoon of welding. Tony Glander will be offering a Friday morning workshop on screen printing imagery for use in either stained or fused glass. More workshops will be listed on the website. Be sure to sign up early.

Tours of Historic Installations

Cleveland offers an incredible collection of historical panels created by some of the most notable stained glass artists. On Friday morning a walking tour will be available close to the hotel, and on Friday afternoon there will be a bus tour of local stained glass installations.

The Garfield Monument, final resting place of the 20th president, combines Romanesque, Gothic, and Byzantine styles of architecture and displays stained glass windows representing the 13 colonies plus Ohio. Also on the tour is Cleveland’s Old Stone Church, an historic Presbyterian church located in downtown Cleveland and the oldest building on Public Square. It contains windows from Tiffany, La Farge, and Lamb, to name just a few. A number of these windows were restored at Whitney Stained Glass Studio.

On the Square is the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Dedicated in 1896, it contains incredibly detailed windows representing the various armed forces of the times. Not far from the Square is Wade Chapel named for Jephtha Wade. Best known for being the founder of the Western Union Telephone Company, he dedicated his life to hard work and good deeds. Louis C. Tiffany designed the interior of the chapel. The interior walls contain massive panels consisting of thousands of cut pieces of mosaic glass, showcasing the *River of Life* and the *River of Death*. Cleveland’s stained glass is a history class all its own.



Cindy Courage and Rick Prigg examine a panel under construction at Whitney Stained Glass.

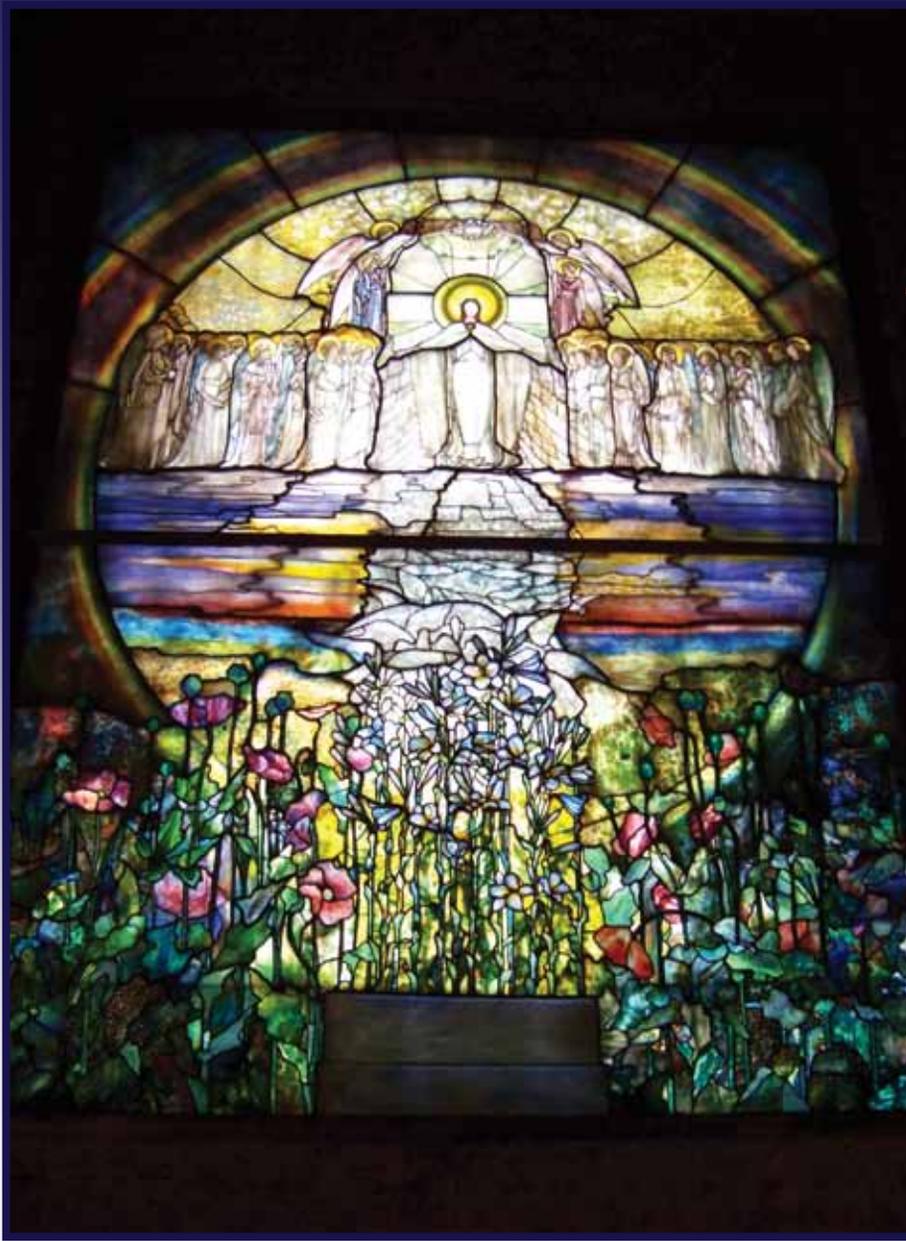
Photo by Tony Glander.

Lectures and Demonstrations

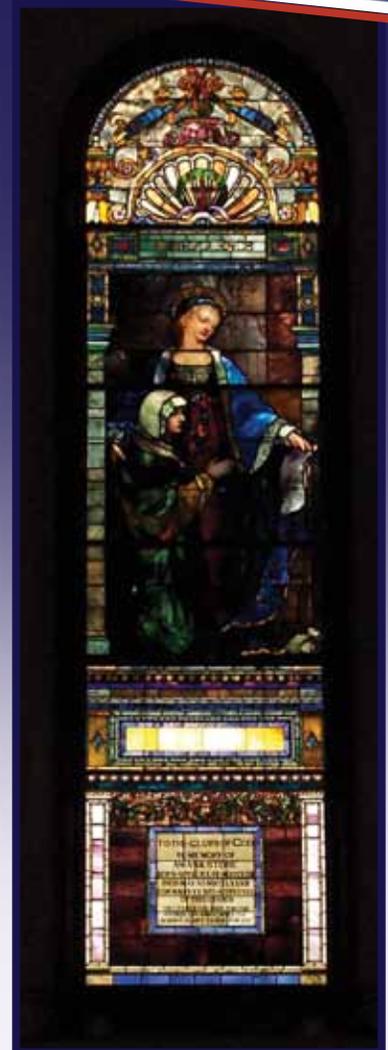
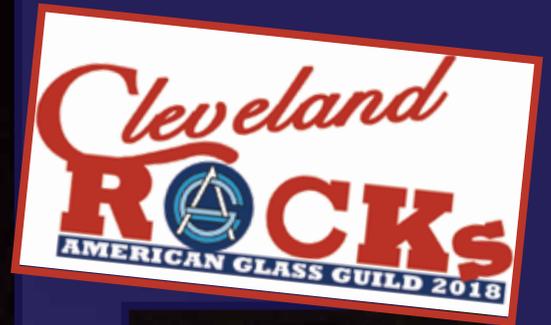
Speakers this year will cover a wide range of topics. Whether working with laminated dichroic glass or working effectively with Lambert Glass, attendees will be exposed to a wide range of creative processes. Two speakers are presenting topics on laminated glass. Rich Lamothe of Glass Strategies collaborated on the new American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C. It is an amazing monument of imagery and words floating in the glass. John Blazy studied furniture design at Rochester Institute of Technology before becoming a radiation-cure chemist. He has patented color changing glass called Dichrolam. Blazy is an incredible craftsman with an insatiable appetite for creating in glass and continues to experiment and push the boundaries of the medium.

Barbara Krueger will discuss the artistic life of Douglas Phillips, a noted stained glass artist from the Cleveland area who worked for John Winterich & Associates during the mid 1900s. Daniella Peltz will be presenting “Paint and Paint Problems,” a talk about stained glass paint and the factors contributing to its deterioration and loss and what to do about it. A full list of speakers can be found on the AGG website.

Along with these intriguing speakers, the conference will also host a number of great demonstrations to get attendees up and walking around. If you have ever seen one of Don Burt’s panels in past conferences, you will want to see his stenciling technique demonstration. Ken Leap will also be providing an enlightening demo on enamels. Do you need to reproduce a jewel from a panel you are restoring, or do you just want to work with glass in a more sculptural style? Graham Fox will be doing a dry cast demonstration.



A Tiffany window in Wade Chapel. Photo by Janet Lipstreu.



A La Farge window at the Old Stone Church. Photo by Janet Lipstreu.

Grand Lodgings Dedicated to the Arts

As if the conference elements aren't enough, the hotel site is grand. Sitting just a few blocks from the banks of Lake Erie and a short 20-minute ride from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE), the Downtown Westin Hotel has provided the AGG with a great meeting space. Meetings, auction activities, and meals will all be conveniently located in one area of the hotel along with the members' display of stained glass.

The guest rooms are well appointed and the hotel hosts a workout room as well as a Starbucks. The hotel is also convenient to many local, tasty restaurants as well as being just a short walk to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The hotel is even dedicated to the arts. The floors of the Westin contain a large collection of artwork and even an app for phones to tell viewers about the art and the artist. *Cellular* is a large sculpture in the lobby by Olga Ziemka made from trees that were cut down in the Cleveland area for a pedestrian bridge.

Sharing the Fun

In addition to the other great things that the conference has to offer, there will be a number of social opportunities as well. This year's auction promises to be one to remember! The donations are already coming in and include some incredible stained glass panels.

Bendheim has made a large donation of tools, jewels, and supplies that will certainly get the bidding competition soaring. Both silent and live auctions will occur again this year when the AGG will host a member exhibition of stained glass panels. **GA**

Registration information for the exhibition, as well as all events, speakers, and workshops, can be found at americanglassguild.org, the AGG website. Early registration ends May 10, 2018.

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