

The Sum of the Whole

AGG's Annual Conference 2018

by Tony Glander

The American Glass Guild (AGG) has assembled another incredible conference to take place in Cleveland, Ohio, June 21–24, 2018. The Westin Cleveland Downtown Hotel will be the site of the conference. It is conveniently located only a few blocks from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the shores of Lake Erie. Between what the site has to offer and what the AGG has already planned to bring to Cleveland, this will be one incredible conference!

Thursday

Starting off Thursday morning, four very different all-day workshops will be offered for attendees. The Glass Bubble Project, Cleveland's premier glassblowing studio and gallery, will host a combination workshop. Students will spend the day trying their hand at glassblowing and metal welding.

Several workshops will take place at the historic Whitney Stained Glass Studio, one with Sasha Zietneva, who will be teaching a fused glass class entitled "Fused Glass as a Painterly Medium." Participants will learn how to use viscosity, weight distribution, and chemistry between certain colors to create various painterly effects in fusing. One of today's best glass painters, Indre McCraw, will also be teaching a class designed to advance any glass painter's technique. She will be covering the painting techniques that she most regularly uses with the goal of sharing how she paints, openly and candidly. Michael Dupille will cover the basics of open face glass casting. Students will learn about the use of frits, cut pieces, inclusions, and casting billets.

Friday

Friday morning starts off with four half-day workshops. I will be teaching a class on the use of screen printing in both stained and fused glasswork and show participants everything from designing the artwork to printing on glass. Graham Fox will be sharing skills for stained glass repair. The workshop covers his plan of attack and techniques for repair of one or several broken pieces in finished, framed panels. Rich Lamothe will explain how to use Bohle products to produce laminated glass panels. The keynote speaker, Karl Heinz Traut, will be conducting a design class focused on the use of Lambert Glass.

Two tours are also being offered on Friday. With the hotel located in downtown Cleveland, there are many stained glass treasures within a short walking distance. A self-guided tour with maps will be available that will outline numerous stops. In the afternoon, the traditional bus tour will take attendees to view a number of historic windows. In addition, windows from Connick, Tiffany, Burnham, Heaton, and Willet will be seen while visiting sites that include Wade Chapel, Trinity Cathedral, Grace Lutheran Church, and a few more.



*Graham Fox will be teaching stained glass repair.
Photo courtesy of Whitney Stained Glass.*

Friday night will be the official kickoff of the conference with a reception as well as the opening of the Members' Exhibition. This year, members will have the opportunity to bring a stained glass panel to display on the hotel's mezzanine level for the duration of the conference. A number of panels have been submitted already and are amazing examples of the talent within the AGG. Part of the display will also host an exhibition of panels created by students enrolled in J. Kenneth Leap's spring stained glass class at Bryn Athyn College outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Weekend Activities

Saturday and Sunday will be an intriguing combination of speakers that cover a diverse range of topics. Karl Heinz Traut was chosen as this year's keynote speaker when Robert Jayson was asked to recommend an expert on using Lambert glass. Jayson quickly suggested Traut, adding, "I could not think of another person with a more intimate understanding and knowledge of Lambert glass."

Kathy Barnard will share her incredible layered work that has graced the *American Glass Now* exhibitions for the last few years. Mary Zodnick will discuss her recent collaborative New York project, and Lindsey Parrot will cover elements of her recent book on Tiffany Mosaics.

Modern technology will also be well represented as Charles Devillier discusses digital designing and all of its benefits, from color studies to figuring out the square footage of each type of glass used. Rick Prigg and Janet Lipstreu will talk about how to take advantage of LEDs to illuminate stained glass, and Tom Krepcio will give some insights regarding computer storage to help keep computers running at their best. As a special highlight, Barbara Krueger will talk about the work of Doug Phillips, who was a great inspiration to one of AGG's finest members, James Whitney. Many more talks have been arranged and promise to have attendees inspired and motivated.



*Detail of a Mayer panel originally from St. Joseph Franciscan Church on Woodland Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio.
Photo by Tony Glander.*



*Charles Devillier's self portrait panel will be included in his lead came demonstration.
Photo by the artist.*



*Tony Glander's screen printed tree block.
Photo by the artist.*



*A detail of a stained glass panel from Trinity Cathedral.
Photo courtesy of Whitney Stained Glass.*

Live Demos

Demonstrations will be dispersed throughout the talks. Members will have the opportunity to not only hear short talks from these talented artists but also see examples of their work. Kathy Jordan will reveal how to properly trim brushes to help improve anyone's painting skills. Don Burt will share a number of examples on using stenciling techniques to create texture and depth. Charles Devillier will demystify leading "tricks" such as pointing off, touché, and more in his demonstration, "Line Dancing." Other demonstrations also promise to be entertaining as well as educational.

Saturday night is the annual banquet along with all of the fun and festivities of the scholarship fundraising auction. This year's silent auction promises to be one of the best with a large number of donations already received, with everything from bevels to tools and books. The live auction is traditionally a congenial competition over acquiring incredible, unique stained glass art. The annual awards round out the evening, highlighting the contributions of individuals to the stained glass industry.

A Vision for Moving Forward

With business lunches both days, the AGG's main focus this year is to discuss a vision on how to move forward with the organization's main goal—making sure that the AGG always strives to be inclusive and supportive of quality education.

I like the saying, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." This is very true when it comes to the AGG. Here I've outlined all of the "parts" of the AGG annual conference. What is hard to convey to people who have never been to a conference is that they are all gears in a great machine. For me, it's an amazing community of people, from beginners to seasoned professionals, all coming together to communicate their love of glass art. Each one has something to share, so come and enjoy the speakers, exhibitions, and auction events. Experience the whole, and you'll come away with so much more!

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Visit www.americanglassguild.org for more information on the conference.

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