

The *Glorious Glass* Tour Takes Off!

by Pam Reekie

In 2017, the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) celebrated 20 years since its foundation as the principle supporter and promoter of artists and collectors of contemporary glass in the United Kingdom. It now has almost 1,000 members, both nationally and internationally.

To continue the celebration of this landmark anniversary and to raise awareness among members of the general public of the glory of contemporary glass, a series of linked exhibitions are being held around Great Britain over the next three years. This circular tour starts and ends in the South West, with the Creative Innovation Centre (CIC) in Taunton chosen as the first venue.

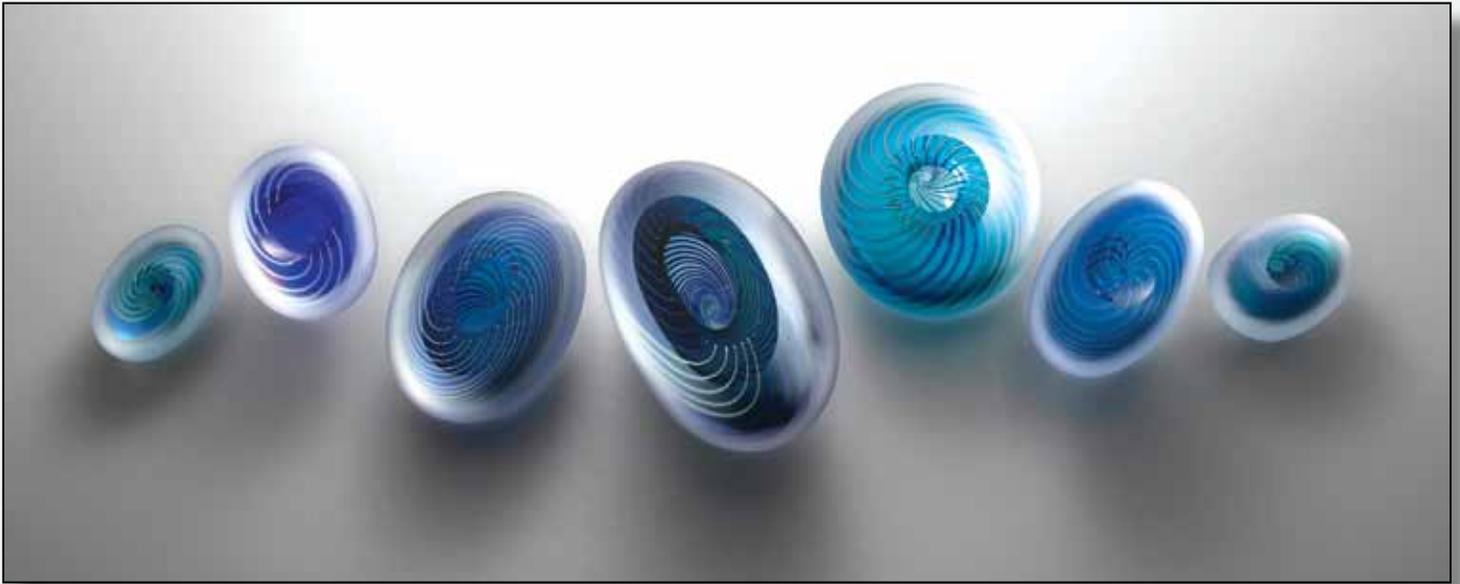
Celebrating Contemporary Glass Art

The intention of this series of exhibitions is to offer all members of the Society, from hobbyists to international high flyers, the opportunity to show their work. Therefore, all of the exhibitions are unselected and open to everyone who is a member of CGS. As a result, this series of exhibitions will be a diverse, vibrant encapsulation and demonstration of the current glass art scene in the UK.

The exhibitions all set out to demonstrate just how utterly glorious and amazing contemporary glass is so that everyone can appreciate and enjoy its magical colors, textures, use of light, and variety of methods. The work displayed will feature a wide range of techniques including hot blown forms, fused glass, stained glass panels, pâte de verre, and cast glass. The artists are featured along with their personal explanation of why glass is glorious to them and why they have chosen the pieces on display to express that passion for their chosen material.



Sandra Young, Foxglove. Photo by Simon Bruntnell.



Charlie MacPherson, Coral. Photo by Steve Dodd, Big Cheese Photography.



Roberta Lyles, Look After Our Home. Photo by the artist.



Mim Brigham, Marram Lagoon, 2017. Photo by Phil Parr.

A Wide Variety of Opportunities

Running throughout each exhibition period are hands-on workshops run by local artists aimed at introducing local people to the glassmaking experience. They will also enable other glass artists to explore a technique that may be new to them. Each venue will host a Glass Makers Fair to compliment the exhibition and create a wide span of pricing to suit all pockets. In addition, participants in a Glass Forum Day at each setting will hear from international speakers and will be provided with a chance for CGS members to network, share ideas, solve problems, and meet fellow makers. Most importantly, this varied program of events offers local communities the opportunity to discover their own local glass artists and the glories of contemporary glass.

The second venue is a joint exhibition for Scottish members with the Scottish Society of Glass Artists in Glasgow in September 2018. At the same time, the third exhibition opens at Maidstone Museum in Kent featuring work from South East and London members.

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Visit www.cgs.org.uk for more information on the Contemporary Glass Society

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