

The Naked Craft Project

Shin-Nagata Glass Residence 2019

by the Contemporary Glass Society Staff

The Naked Craft Project is an artist in residence program instituted by Nobuyasu Yoshida, a glass artist living and working in Kobe, Japan. Yoshida, who studied in the U.K., is a member of the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS), a U.K. organization that aims to promote and develop all forms of contemporary glass art.

The residence program is run in partnership with the CGS. Each year one artist from the CGS is selected to spend a month in Kobe creating a body of work while experiencing life in Japan. The project aims to make connections on a local and global scale via contemporary craftsmanship as well as making a cultural exchange through the works of artists from the U.K. and Japan.

Project Goals

The first volume of The Naked Craft Project took place in Kobe in 2011, with the second in 2015. The project has allowed three artists to visit Kobe—Sarah Brown in 2015 and the most recent being Paul Miller and Griet Beyaert, who visited in 2017. In addition to creating artworks, the selected artists participate in workshops and seminars for schools and people living in Kobe. The aim is to introduce people to the creative possibilities of working with glass as an expressive art material and for the artists to gain an understanding of the lives and culture of the people living in Kobe.

The Naked Craft Project is supported by CGS and CGS members Professor Mike Barnes, MD, FRCP, Peter Bloxham, Dr. David Williams, and Alan J Willis. Yoshida approached the Contemporary Glass Society and Dominic Fonde, a glass engraver living and working in Kobe, to be project partners. Fonde is a former committee member and editor of *Glass Network*, the CGS magazine. Yoshida also approached the Greater Manchester Club to be a project partner to assist with publicity.

Pam Reekie, Administrator for CGS, recently shared: “We are delighted to have the opportunity for CGS members to visit and work in Japan with Japanese students. The Naked Craft project is a fantastic way to share ideas and experience different cultures from across the world.”



*Nina Casson McGarva.
Photo by the artist.*

Nina Casson McGarva, 2019 Residency Recipient

The artist selected to take part in the 2019 residency is Nina Casson McGarva. Nina was born in Gloucester in the U.K., but grew up in rural central France. She started learning the basic technical skills of glassblowing in the National French Glass School in Yzeure, then experimented with kiln work techniques at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Bornholm, Denmark. Since graduating in 2014, she has been part of two artist residency programs in the USA, one in Star, North Carolina, and the Emerging Artists in Residence (EAIR) program at Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwood, Washington.

Talking about her work Nina states: “The starting point in my work is nature. I take a detail of an element I find in nature and use it as an inspirational base to create my own abstraction, which then builds into a complex sculpture. I have always admired Japanese crafts, coming myself from a makers family, and I think that going to Japan in the autumn would be the perfect time to gain inspiration for my work and share with people there who appreciate craft and seasons.” The residency began on October 15, 2019 and will run through November 15, 2019.

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The Contemporary Glass Society is a charitable organization registered in the U.K. and is funded entirely through its members and donations from individuals and organizations. To learn more about becoming a CGS member, visit www.cgs.org.