

AGG Corning 2022



The AGG Conference Committee (left to right): David Fode, Roberto Rosa, Maria Serpentino, Kathy Jordan, Bee Stumph, Tony Serviente, and Adam Frazee.

by Troy Moody

The American Glass Guild is a diverse collection of individuals, each engaged in the craft and art of glass on some personal level. Whether its new design, restoration, manufacturing, retail, or academic as a professional, amateur, or hobbyist, it is the common interest in one or more of the myriad aspects of the field that unites us as a community, as a collective. Throughout the year we connect through social media, discussion boards, GlassZooms, and our yearly summer conference. The elected Board of Directors, with help from committee members and volunteers, are in a constant state of planning and preparation.

Heading to Corning

The Conference Committee continues to finalize plans for a stellar conference at the Corning Museum of Glass (CMoG) in Corning, New York, July 14–17, 2022. Site visits and contract negotiations are underway. Decisions are also being made about workshops, accommodations, speakers, and scholarships, sponsors are pledging support, and other logistics are beginning to jell.

An auspicious location for an auspicious happening, most of the Conference activities will take place at the Corning Museum of Glass. CMoG is the world's largest museum celebrating 35 centuries of glass art and history. With stunning architecture housing a breathtaking Contemporary Art + Design Wing, a floor dedicated to science and innovation, and the largest hot glass demonstration space in the world, a visit to CMoG is an experience like no other. The hands-on activities, exhibitions, and collections on view can be browsed over a day or absorbed over a week.

Accommodations are available a short distance from the Museum and within walking distance of restaurants and shopping. Located halfway between Niagara Falls and New York City, Corning is found in the picturesque Finger Lakes Wine County of Upstate New York. The region is rich with natural beauty and agricultural abundance.

As magnificent as the location may be, it is the human interaction, the gathering of like minds, and the sharing of ideas that is at the heart of the American Glass Guild. Bringing experts and masters of the craft together with peers and colleagues from across the gamut of glass experience has been central to our mission from the inception. As busy schedules fill, we are securing commitments from an inspiring lineup of speakers on all things glass. As is customary, we will showcase lectures and workshops focused on areas of new design, conservation, technique, materials, history, and best practices.

Globally Renowned Speakers

At this time we are excited to announce that both Narcissus Quagliata and Thomas Denny have agreed to join our Summer 2022 Conference gathering. They will be sharing their unique perspectives and experiences with this most astounding of materials.

Narcissus Quagliata is widely considered one of the most dynamic contemporary artists in glass. He gained global attention for his captivating art glass installations in public spaces, and his fine artworks in glass and watercolor have been exhibited and collected worldwide. CMoG has an early window by the artist on display.

Quagliata shared that he will celebrate his 80th birthday in 2022 and believes he has reached a time in his life where people begin to feel their own mortality as they consider the achievements they have made and decide what is left to be achieved. Because of his irrepressible curiosity to manifest his vision in glass, the artist created a new language with Bullseye kiln formed glass. He is compelled to share this vast knowledge and recognizes the value it will bring to practicing and emerging young artisans. He is also producing an educational series that calls upon 50 years of unique artistic philosophy, research, business practice, and foundational fusing and painting techniques. The series encompasses three distinct categories—Business for Artists, which is available now, Find the Core, and Painting With Glass.



Thomas Denny, Jesus reading from the Book of Isaiah (detail). Photo courtesy of the artist.

Thomas Denny, visionary artist from the United Kingdom, has agreed to make a sojourn across the pond to discuss several projects, most recently his current immersion in the Trinity Church Wall Street in New York City. Denny was the selected artist in 2020 to receive this prestigious commission through an international competition. He relies on techniques and materials that would be familiar to craftsmen of the 14th century.

The medieval language of lead came and fields of jewel toned blown glass gives Denny's ecclesiastical work an established context within church architecture and ornamentation. This material comfort within that setting permits him the freedom to explore a unique treatment of imagery composition and form. He has refined a highly personalized approach to glass painting, acid etching, and plating, the result of which is a fresh aesthetic, mastery of color, and character unique to his hand.

GlassZoom, a Virtual Gathering

With an outrageous location plus powerful speakers, demonstrations, and workshops, *AGG 2022* is shaping up to be an event for the books. We are excited to see you there, but you don't have to wait to get involved. As technology evolves, allowing greater accessibility to an ever-expanding community of glass enthusiasts, the AGG continues to support and strengthen that network of friends and colleagues.

GlassZoom was born of necessity during the pandemic but has proven itself to be a fun, effective addition to the American Glass Guild beyond our yearly conference. It is a wonderful format to engage our growing national and international community in a fresh, intimate way. Each virtual gathering brings together a panel of experts in the field to discuss a specific glass-related topic or technique. A culture of support and camaraderie encourages lively discussions and casual banter that creates an opportunity for entertainment and education. We intend to continue offering GlassZoom episodes for all current AGG Members and nonmembers alike. Check us out on Facebook and Instagram for upcoming topics, dates, and times.



Thomas Denny, Reconciliation Window at St John's, Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Looking Forward to Next July

It's been hard to be away from friends, and like many of you, we crave the face-to-face dialogue and exchange of ideas, humor, and philosophy that come with an in-person congress of like-minded individuals "geeking out" on glass. We are excited for the future and look forward to seeing you all in Corning in a few short months.

In the meantime, please reach out, get involved, find us on social media, and start making plans. We will continue our efforts to build our most inspirational and energizing annual conference for the July 2022 venue. We are closely monitoring local and state public health protocols in the host city and are reassured by the safety and wellness measures that the Radisson Hotel (soon-to-be Hilton) and Corning Museum of Glass have implemented for their guests and in-person events. Be safe. We'll see you soon!

GA

Visit www.americanglassguild.org for more on the American Glass Guild, including its membership, conferences, auction, and scholarship information.

© Copyright 2021 by Glass Art®.
All rights reserved.