

# AGG Summer Conference at The Corning Museum of Glass

A Convergence of Glass History and History in the Making



by Kathy Jordan, AGG President

Have you ever been to a museum entirely focused on a single material? Did you know the United Nations has declared 2022 the International Year of Glass? Did you know that the American Glass Guild (AGG) will hold its sixteenth annual conference July 14–17, in Corning, New York, with workshops on Wednesday and Thursday, July 13–14?

With over 3,500 years of glassmaking history housed in a building designed to mimic the flow of glass, The Corning Museum of Glass is home to the largest collection of art glass in the world, from early Mesopotamian art to the beautiful stained glass windows of Narcissus Quagliata, Judith Schaechter, Dale Chihuly, and Louis Comfort Tiffany. It is interactive, educational, hands-on, and family friendly wrapped up into an incredible AGG summer conference.

## Preconference Workshops

For those wanting a unique glass painting experience, AGG is offering two days of instruction given by Steven Cowan of Birmingham, UK, and Lyn Durham of Vero Beach, Florida. A dynamic trio of glass artists—Petri Anderson of Hertfordshire, UK, Tim Carey of Los Angeles, California, and Debora Coombs of Readsboro, Vermont—will also join together for a one-day Design Circuit workshop. They will be sharing their distinctive design approaches through Procreate and Illustrator with special LED lighting considerations, and “Designing for Architectural Commissions.” West and East Coast glass artists—Troy Moody of Mesa, Arizona, and Dan Maher of Cambridge, Massachusetts—will teach half-day back-to-back workshops covering “Iron Oxide Image Transfers in Fused Glass” and “Photo Sensitive Sandblast Imaging.” Glass artist Amy Valuck of Media, Pennsylvania, will conduct a half-day workshop covering “Conservation Edge Gluing” and glass repair techniques.



Thomas Denny, the Gerald Finzi Window at Gloucester Cathedral. Photo by James O. Davies.

Window evaluation by Roberto Rosa at Christ Episcopal Church, Corning New York. Photo Courtesy of Kathy Jordan.

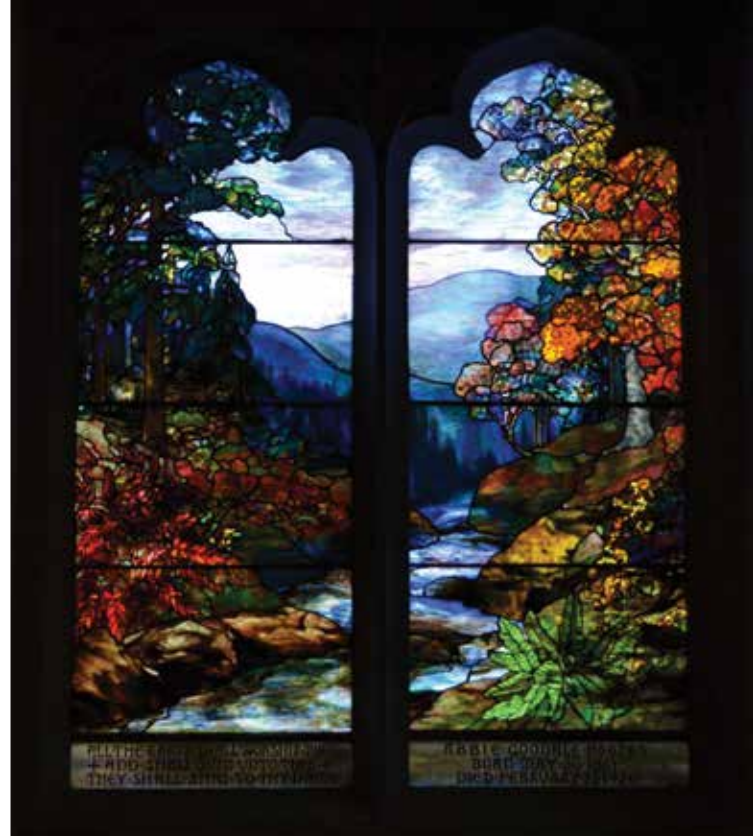






(Above) John La Farge, Isaiah Rose Window at the featured presentation on the La Farge restoration at the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia. Photo Courtesy of Friends of 2125 Chestnut Street.

(Right) Tiffany Studios, Hoopes Memorial Window at the Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth, United Church of Christ in Duluth, Minnesota. Photo courtesy of Josh Probert.



Roberto Rosa of Serpentino Stained Glass in Needham, Massachusetts, will lead a workshop on evaluating stained glass windows for conservation and preparing a Condition Assessment at Christ Episcopal Church, which is within walking distance from the hotel. Roberto and all participants will compare everyone's findings and provide the Church with the final collaborative assessment.

Rounding out an amazing offering of conference workshops, Derek Hunt of Leicestershire, UK, will teach a half-day class on navigating self-promotion in the virtual world of YouTube. Derek will show his students how to set up, film a painting demonstration, and edit a short video production.

## Opening Reception, Conference Presentations, and Retrospective Exhibition

AGG will welcome conference attendees at a cocktail reception on Thursday evening at the Radisson to kick off the opening of the James C. Whitney Scholarship Auction. On Friday through Sunday, attendees will enjoy a variety of talks and panels, beginning with an impressive lineup of glass luminaries in the Amphitheater at The Corning Museum of Glass (CMoG). This event will be livestreamed around the world in celebration of the International Year of Glass (IYoG). Registration to the virtual component can be found on the AGG website.

The event will conclude with the presentation of the prestigious Joseph Barnes Award plus a tribute and Retrospective Exhibition in the main lobby of the Museum in memory of Mary Clerkin Higgins. Mary was a founding member of the AGG and served as President in 2010 and 2011. Her contribution and steadfast direction helped build a strong foundation for the American Glass Guild. Since 1976, Mary had devoted her career to glass, conserving historic stained glass, and creating original new work.

## Distinguished Presenters

Conference goers can attest that it would be nearly impossible to condense a description of every lecture, panel, or presentation into this brief article, but here are some highlights to whet your appetite.

- Judith Schaechter, a renowned glass artist whose work is featured in the Corning Museum, pioneered traditional stained glass as a medium for contemporary exploration that is rooted in traditional technique. She will share her thoughts on glass education during these unprecedented times.
- Narcissus Quagliata will celebrate his 80th birthday and share his extraordinary career with the announcement of his new educational video series on fused glass, *Painting with Light*. His work is also featured in the Corning Museum.
- Thomas Denny, a contemporary British painter and stained glass artist, was awarded the prestigious new window commission at Trinity Episcopal Church on Wall Street in New York City. He will share his beautiful work and multilayered, acid etched, and painting processes.
- Laura Buchner, Senior Conservator, will discuss the fabrication methods, deterioration patterns, and conservation techniques of dalle de verre, also known as faceted glass. Understanding the technical evolution and performance of these unique materials is paramount to safeguarding these structures.





Dalle de Verre glasswork at Église Du Sacré-Coeur.  
Photo Courtesy of Laura Buchner.

glass art are donated, and a preview of donated items will be featured on our Facebook page as we lead up to the event. The auction benefits the AGG's educational mission and James Whitney Scholarship Fund, providing support for training, workshops, and conference attendance, both in the United States and abroad. Our auction is the sole support of our scholarship fund, and we thank everyone for their continued support.

## History in the Making During the IYoG 2022

Along with great talks, an incredible selection of workshops, and access to CMoG, the most important feature of any AGG conference is the networking and camaraderie of its members and guests. We join together for a purpose larger than ourselves with opportunities to meet new people, talk to presenters, or simply catch up with old friends. We always look forward to

feeling rejuvenated and inspired by the collective talent of fellow glass-afflicted individuals who clamor to dive deeper into this odd subculture that is the American Glass Guild community.

In the spirit of the International Year of Glass, AGG echoes the global mission to "share our ideas, find working partners, seize new opportunities, tell our glass stories, and learn new things." Please join us at CMoG to celebrate glass, its diversity, and its past, present, and possibilities for the future.

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Visit [www.americanglassguild.org](http://www.americanglassguild.org) for more information on becoming a member of AGG and to register for the Summer 2022 Conference.

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- **Painting Panel: A Brush with the Best Q & A** with Indre McGraw, Lyn Durham, Steven Cowan, Kathy Jordan, Melissa Janda, and David Fode. An impressive panel of Master Glass Painters will talk about their painting journeys and answer questions from the live and virtual audiences.
- **Guest Panels:** (Fri.): Dr. Manoj Choudhary and Dr. David Pye will share the collective vision and objectives of the United Nations for the International Year of Glass 2022. (Sat.): Glass Art Society, Art Alliance of Contemporary Glass, and Urban Glass have been invited to share their quest for education and plans for IYoG.
- Other featured presenters include Art Femenella, Brianne Van Vorst, Roberto Rosa, Linda Cannon, John Reyntiens, Kathy Jordan, Peter Swanson, Rainer Schmitt, Sofia Villamarin, Helen Whittaker, Josh Probert, and more.

## Saturday and Sunday Banquet, Live Auction, and Tributes

Saturday's activities and presentations will unfold at the Radisson Hotel. The conference crescendo on Saturday evening will be our annual Banquet and Live Auction. On Sunday morning, we will enjoy a breakfast together and present a tribute to our Senior Advisors over the years and to the newly inducted.

The fast paced, exciting, and often hilarious live auction is not to be missed! Members and visitors will clamor for the winning bid on a wide selection of donated items. Each year, exquisite works of

The Radisson Hotel is centrally located and just steps away from downtown historic Market Street filled with unique eateries, shops, the Gaffer District, and the Rockwell Museum of Western Art. It is also only 13 minutes by foot (or a quick and free shuttle ride or short drive) to or from The Corning Museum of Glass and Watkins Glen State Park. Elmira Corning Regional is the closest airport and a hub for Delta and Allegiant Airlines. Trip Advisor gives Corning a rating of 83 on the "Good for Walkers" scorecard, so pack your walking shoes! Visit [www.americanglassguild.org](http://www.americanglassguild.org) to register for the upcoming conference.