

Expanding Horizons with the Contemporary Glass Society



*Galia Amsel, Floe 38,
36 cm x 34 cm x 9 cm, 2021.
Photo by the artist.*



*Anthony Amoako-Attah, Winter/Summer,
65 cm x 45 cm x 79 cm, 2022.
Photo by the artist.*

by Susan Purser Hope

Building on the success of our 25th Anniversary year, the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) is reaching out in 2023 to more people than ever to educate, inform, and provide access to the remarkable experience that is the amazing material of glass. CGS is a thriving organization that includes over 1,100 members with networks and contacts worldwide. We support glass artists at all stages of their creative journey and promote contemporary glass to a wider audience.

Discovering Contemporary Glass

From March to December, CGS is taking contemporary glass into the community through a series of Expanding Horizons Discovery Days located in interesting and inspiring locations around the UK that are open to all. The program for each day includes four fascinating speakers from both well-established artists and

young emerging makers. One speaker is an international artist who joins us virtually by Zoom. Other speakers range from upcoming and developing talent, including Anthony Amoako-Attah, Joshua Kerley, and Joanna Manousis to established artists, including David Reekie. International speakers include Galia Amsel from New Zealand and Kristiina Uslar from Estonia. We aim to present the best of the world's contemporary glass artists in order to excite and inspire audiences around the UK.

At each venue, makers take part in a show-and-tell event, explaining the techniques and ideas behind a piece of their work. In addition, there are demonstrations of the many techniques, old and new, that are used in the production of glasswork. By having hands-on opportunities, the audience encounters a greater understanding of the material. In this way, we are working toward dissolving the barriers between artists and the audiences with whom we interact.



David Reekie, Temptation of Lies III, 33 cm x 40 cm x 33 cm, 2018. Photo by the artist.

Venues range from the National Glass Centre, Sunderland, with an event on May 20, to the Hepworth Wakefield gallery on June 17. Other locations include the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the World of Glass in St. Helens, and Arts University Plymouth. Utilizing such an array of different and intriguing venues provides the chance for participants to explore them and discover their specific attractions and learning opportunities during the Discovery Days.

The Benefits of Sharing Glass Art

Every event is available to all regardless of whether they are glass artists, glass collectors, students, young people, or members of the public. However, in order to reach as wide an audience as possible, each Discovery Day will be live streamed. All of the talks will also be recorded and uploaded to give an extended, infinite life to valuable information and advice.

Alongside the Discovery Days, CGS is offering workshops where families can have the chance to work and play with a new craft. We know that from such small seeds of experience, a developing passion for making can follow. Getting involved in creative activities reduces loneliness, supports physical and mental health and well-being, sustains older people, and helps to build and strengthen social ties.



(Top) Kristiina Uslar, Filter I, 33 cm x 26 cm, 2016. Photo by the artist.



(Bottom) Joanna Manousis, Golden Thread (Hex Decanters I), core-cast hand-polished crystal, 24-carat gold mirror, 27.9 cm x 27.9 cm x 8.9 cm, 2019. Photo by the artist.

Our mission is to help glassmakers sustain a living as successful glass artists and to protect and promote the proud heritage of glassmaking in the UK. By delivering a series of Expanding Horizons Discovery Days, CGS aims to create an awareness of the creativity and culture of contemporary glass within communities. We also want to show how it can influence the places in which we live, work, learn, and visit. This happens in tandem with the development of the innovative, collaborative, and internationally facing professional cultural sector of contemporary glass. Why not join us if you can!

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Visit cgs.org.uk to find out more about upcoming events and how to become a member of the Contemporary Glass Society.

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