

# Willkommen to the 2024 Glass Art Society Conference in Berlin



*A bird's-eye view of central Berlin, where the official conference hotel is located.*

*by Amanda Crans and Jennifer Hand*

Photos Courtesy of the Glass Art Society

On a sunny weekend in early July, Berlin Glas welcomed the world-renowned glass performance group The Burnt Asphalt Family to its open-access studio for an eight-day masterclass that culminated in an awe-inspiring public demonstration. As Burnt Asphalt Family founders, Jessica Jane Julius and Erica Rosenfeld, wowed crowds with their trademark combination of glass and domestic arts, Berlin Glas's director Nadania Idriss reflected on an exciting year ahead for her organization. "Berlin Glas looks forward to hosting next year's Glass Art Society (GAS) Conference and sharing the amazing glass energy that happens every year at GAS."

From May 15–18, 2024, the annual GAS conference will invite glass enthusiasts from around the world to discover the vibrant energy of Berlin, Germany. The city was picked as 2024's host city due to its diverse cultural offerings that include a jaw-dropping 170 museums to explore, a stunning host of design firms, tantalizing food, and architectural marvels for attendees to discover and enjoy. From the sparkling glass panes of the Reichstag Dome to the iconic murals of Berlin's East Side Gallery, conference attendees will be dazzled by the host city and GAS's captivating lineup of demonstrations in equal measure.

## **Where Art and Design Meet**

Berlin has long been synonymous with the very best of the design world. Based on a philosophy of combining craft and fine art, the Bauhaus art movement of the early 20th century once called Berlin home, and the museum and archives dedicated to the Bauhaus movement are within walking distance of the official conference hotel. In 2005, UNESCO recognized Berlin's significant contributions to design by naming it a Creative City of Design. With Berlin's status as a major design city in mind, the theme of the 2024 Glass Art Society conference will be *Berlin: Where Art + Design Meet* and will focus on the space where art meets design, the synergy between the two, and the relationships between artists and designers.

Brandi P. Clark, Executive Director of GAS, recently shared that GAS cannot wait to bring glass artists, designers, and enthusiasts together in Berlin. "This marks our first conference back in Europe since 2018, and we are excited to be working with our fantastic partners in such an accessible location for our European members. Having more international conferences aligns with where we want to see GAS move in the future, and we are eager to expand the scope of the conference beyond our historical focus on hot glass to include all facets of the community."



*The GAS Conference is always a thrilling exchange of ideas and a glass family reunion. Hoseok Youn served as the gaffer for Tiff Massey's demonstration at the 2023 GAS Conference kickoff.*



*Jeffrey Sarmiento discusses 3-D printing technologies with a captivated audience at the College for Creative Studies during the 2023 Conference in Detroit.*

Nearly 200 proposals for conference presentations, the majority of them from European artists and designers, reflect the enthusiasm for Berlin's central location and artistic reputation. The conference program will be carefully curated to showcase evolving glass practices around the globe, share achievements in sustainability, and highlight the unique glass history and culture of the region.

### **Exploring New Ideas in Glass Art**

GAS will be hosting the conference programming at two large industrial spaces in the northwest part of the city, Wilhelm Hallen Creative Campus and Berlin Glas. The latter is located on the site of an old Schnapps factory that has been allocated as a place for cultural activities and production since 2010. Monopol, a neighbor of Berlin Glas, will also host conference activities on their site. Berlin Glas moved into the complex at the end of 2012 and will host select demonstrations for the 2024 conference. Nadania Idriss explains, "Berlin is home to many design firms, galleries, museums, and so many other incredible artistic spaces. We hope conference attendees will fall in love with Berlin just like we have."

The Wilhelm Hallen Creative Campus is a short distance away from Berlin Glas on the metro and is a former iron foundry that has been transformed into one of Berlin's leading art and design

hot spots. The site is the future home of Bocci, a design firm that is graciously sponsoring the 2024 GAS Conference. At Wilhelm Hallen, conference attendees will be inspired by hot and flame demonstrations, explore new ideas in lecmos and lectures, and see everything vendors have to offer at the GAS Market.

In addition to conference presentations, GAS will showcase the recent work of the glass art community in three exhibitions—one featuring student work, one focused on art by GAS members, and another dedicated to sustainability in glass. The call for entries will open in conjunction with registration. GAS is committed to making the conference as affordable as possible, and there will be several ways to save on conference registration, including scholarships, work exchange, and volunteer opportunities. Exciting add-ons for conference registration will include a half-day trip for attendees wishing to experience the highlights of Berlin before the official conference kickoff and excursions to other glassy locations in Germany. On November 13, 2023, registration for the conference will open at [glassart.org](http://glassart.org).

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*Visit [www.glassart.org](http://www.glassart.org) to learn more about the Glass Art Society and how to become a member.*

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