

# A Legacy of Inspiration

## The Amanda Moriarty Prize and Its Impact on the Glass Community

by Helen Slater Stokes

Since its launch in 2018, The Amanda Moriarty Prize has been growing into one of the UK's most respected awards in the field of glass art. More than a financial award, it is a springboard for creativity, experimentation, and connection offering glass artists opportunities that might otherwise remain out of reach.

Established by the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) in memory of Amanda Moriarty, a longtime board member and Honorary Treasurer, the prize honors her profound dedication to the glass community. Moriarty was known not just for her practical service but for the care and encouragement she gave to artists throughout her life. Following her passing in 2017, the CGS created the annual prize as a tribute to her legacy—a way to continue inspiring the kind of artistic growth and generosity she championed.

What began as a £500 award has since evolved into a dynamic and coveted opportunity, often including residencies with esteemed studios and artists, technical mentorship, and collaborative exploration. Year after year, The Amanda Moriarty Prize has quietly but powerfully shaped the careers and creative journeys of CGS glassmakers across the UK and beyond.

### From Seed to Flame: The Prize Takes Shape

The first recipient of The Amanda Moriarty Prize was Penny Carter in 2018, who used the funds to extend her glass practice and explore innovative ideas. It was a simple, promising start. However, in 2019 the prize took a major leap forward when the eminently celebrated glass artist Colin Reid generously offered a two-week residency at his studio. This transformed the prize from a financial award into a deeply immersive, mentorship-driven experience. The residency was awarded to Cara Wassenberg, an artist whose work combines glass, copper, and steel to explore nature and physicality.

Wassenberg's time in Reid's studio marked a key turning point in her practice. "Despite the COVID pandemic, both parts of this residency took place at exactly the right time in my life and work. I had a good idea of what I needed to learn, but I didn't expect the experience to be so comprehensive and fulfilling."

These early years established the foundation of what would become the essence of The Amanda Moriarty Prize—transformative growth through experience, supported by leaders in the glass community.



Penny Carter, Totem Vessels, 13 cm x 5 cm, flameworked, 2023. Photo credit: Thomas Moran Images.

## Cultural Exchange and Personal Growth

In 2020, the prize expanded again, this time internationally. Kate Henderson, a Scottish stained glass artist known for combining traditional techniques with contemporary design, was selected to work with renowned glass artist Mark Angus in Graz, Austria.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the residency by two years, the impact was no less profound. “I was delighted to win The Amanda Moriarty Prize,” Henderson shared. “The residency has given me the time and space to focus on a narrative within the composition, which has led me to a new direction within my work.”

These experiences demonstrate that the prize is not only about skills or technique. It is also about unlocking new potential and inspiring long-term change in an artist’s approach.

## Hot Glass and New Collaborations

In 2021, the prize expanded yet again, this time into the realm of hot glass. Devereux & Huskie Glassworks in Wiltshire, partnered with master glassmakers James Devereux and Katherine Huskie, who very generously offered a four-day residency. This time the prize was awarded to Calum Dawes, whose work emerged from the isolation of lockdown.

Dawes shared, “I’m really grateful for this opportunity. It allowed me to develop a body of work born during lockdown and push my ideas further with expert support.”

His reflections reinforce the deeper value and meaning of the prize, proving that it provides more than just technical development, but also a renewed sense of ambition and artistic direction. He credits the experience with teaching him about scale, detail, and the optical magic of solid glass. Dawes has since gone on to extend his practice and is currently working toward a master’s degree in glass at the Royal College of Art, London.

In 2022, the residency took place at The Glass Hub in Wingfield, Wiltshire, an innovative learning center committed to inclusivity and cross-disciplinary glass education. As a hub for glass courses based around visiting established glass artists, this was a fantastic opportunity for the winner to choose a discipline to work in, whether that would be with a hot shop expert, flameworker, or kiln former. The prize was awarded to Pratibha Mistry, who benefited from five days of experimentation and mentoring from both Helga Watkins-Baker, director and warm glass tutor, and KT Yun, director and hot glass tutor.

As Mistry recalled: “The Amanda Moriarty prize, hosted at The Glass Hub, provided me with the opportunity to merge controlled techniques such as pâte de verre and casting with more spontaneous hot glass methods. This experience helped develop a new confidence in my practice and highlighted the limitless potential that glass offers.”

## 2024: Four Artists, One Vision

The year 2024 marked a significant milestone for The Amanda Moriarty Prize. In an unprecedented gesture of generosity, Richard Glass and Teign Valley Glass offered not one, but four residencies to our outstanding glass artists.

Located on the edge of Dartmoor, Teign Valley Glass is widely known for its traditional hot glass craftsmanship and innovative spirit. For the 2024 Prize, the studio hosted Emma Baker, Theo Brooks, Laura Kriefman, and Maria Zulueta, each for five days of hands-on work, mentorship, and creative exploration.

The artists brought their own unique perspective to the studio, and each left with new skills, ideas, and inspiration. Their residencies reflect a collective commitment to collaboration, technical excellence, and the power of artistic community—principles that have defined the prize’s mission since its creation.

## 2025: New Frontiers in Flameworking

Looking ahead, The Amanda Moriarty Prize is evolving yet again. For 2025, CGS has announced a brand-new partnership with the fabulous Laura Quinn Design Studio in Reading, Berkshire. The studio specializes in the fascinating discipline of flameworking, a delicate and precise technique that demands control, patience, and creativity. This residency will offer one talented CGS member the opportunity to spend five days with Quinn, an acclaimed flameworker known for her refined techniques and design innovation.

The selected artist will benefit from hands-on instruction and personal mentorship in a dynamic, forward-thinking studio environment. With a focus on contemporary approaches to flameworking and artistic expression, this new chapter of the prize promises to support yet another emerging voice in glass.

## A Living Tribute

More than an annual award, The Amanda Moriarty Prize is a living tribute—an embodiment of Moriarty’s belief in the power of opportunity and the importance of community. Each year, the CGS continues to ensure that the prize stays relevant, diverse, and inclusive, offering experiences that resonate with artists at different stages in their careers and across various disciplines.

Whether it is hot glass, stained glass, flameworking, or kiln forming, the prize adapts to the ever-changing needs of the glass world. It will continue to push boundaries while staying grounded in its original purpose to uplift, to encourage, and to inspire. As past winners reminisce on their journeys and future CGS artists prepare to take up the mantle, one thing is clear—the Amanda Moriarty Prize is not just changing careers. It is changing lives.

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*For more information about The Amanda Moriarty Prize or to apply to become a CGS Member, visit [www.cgs.org.uk](http://www.cgs.org.uk).*

