

Sharing Glass Art through Public Venues



by Leslie Perlis

The Art Glass Association of Southern California (AGASC) is fortunate that our public library system in the San Diego area considers art to be a part of its programs. Many of our newer branch libraries were designed by talented architects with contemporary designs that incorporate pedestals, cabinets, or areas for displaying local artists' work.

One such location is the Mission Valley Branch Library in San Diego, where the AGASC was invited to present an exhibit from January 7 through February 25, 2015. The exhibit featured 34 pieces of glass art created by AGASC members. Artists included Cathy Coverly, Leslie Perlis, Jennifer Brennan, Sandy Levin, Marti Blair, Bill Matulich, Carol Korfin, Kathleen Mitchell, Dick Ditore, Carolyn Moore, Jaron Scott, Dalia El Tawy, and Mariah Armstrong Conner. Various techniques of glassworking including fused, blown, cast, and mosaic art were represented.

Introducing the Public to Glass Art

Karen E. Reilly, manager of the Mission Valley Branch Library, related: "We were so excited to be able to show works by the members of the Art Glass Association of Southern California. Their work is really diverse and interesting, and demonstrates so many different glassmaking techniques."

"Our patrons just loved it, even the children! We saw them with their faces pressed against the display cases every day. We also put out a display of glass-related books in conjunction with the exhibit, and they were flying off the shelf. I think we have really sparked people's interest in the art form."

Sharing the Magic

Exhibiting artist, Jennifer Brennan, served as the show's coordinator. She noted that the display created by the library's circulation desk contained books on the history of glass and glass artists for the public to peruse and check out.

"AGASC members provided brief descriptions of their installations and the techniques they used to inform the public about blown, cast, fused, etched, sculpted, and mosaic pieces of glass. Hopefully, the magic of this amazing medium will inspire others to learn more about glass or even go on to create their own works of art."

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Visit www.agasc.org to learn more about the organization's shows, workshops, and tours, and how to become a member.

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