



# Charting a Course: Visions in Glass

## Exploring the New Energy of Glass Art in St. Petersburg



by Tess McShane

The 2019 GAS Conference, *Charting a Course: Visions in Glass*, will explore the new energy of St. Petersburg and the Florida Gulf Coast, from Sarasota to Tampa, offering a new perspective on future directions in glass for the Glass Art Society (GAS) Conference.

### A Perfect Location for Exploring Glass Art

St. Petersburg is a city of youthful, vibrant arts communities and dynamic change, as well as famous, fine white sandy beaches. With an average citizen age of 39, the city has benefited from the migration of forward-thinking entrepreneurs, artists, and businesses attracted by its livability. It's a glass-loving town with the Chihuly Collection, the Morean Arts Center Glass Studio & Hot Shop, Imagine Museum, Duncan McClellan Gallery, and the Zen Glass Studio, all within two miles of each other. Each of these venues will open their doors to our members and share all that St. Pete has to offer.

*Nightlife in downtown St. Petersburg, Florida.  
Photo courtesy of Tracy Connolly,  
St. Pete Visitors Bureau.*

### Exploring Important Issues

The upcoming 2019 GAS Conference will focus on the following:

- Charting career skills and new routes of success
- New relationships with science and the technology of glass
- New creative directions in the work of emerging glass artists
- Changes in market conditions and developing strategic responses
- Exploring new directions for collectors

As a glass community, we will come together to chart a new course and address issues such as professional development and skills and what that means for emerging artists who are influenced by concept, nontechnical work, installations, and art performance.

The *Charting a Course: Visions in Glass* conference will also try to answer the following questions:

- How can artists making conceptual or installation pieces earn an income?
- How will galleries and museums negotiate their sales and curation with the changing landscape of art making?
- What can our established glass artists pass on to our emerging artists?
- What can our glass educators provide within their curricula to reach out to develop interest and inspire new student audiences in the field of glass?
- How can conceptual technical sculpture making in glass transform and find a new audience of collectors and enthusiasts?

The GAS Conference is a reference point from which to assess a new course for the vital, living history of glass. It is an opportunity to meet and review the past and approach the future of glass art pioneers from whose intention, innovation, and momentum we benefit every day.



*Studio classes at Zen Studio and Gallery.  
Photo courtesy of Zen Glass.*



(Left to right) Inside the Duncan McClellan Gallery and the gallery's Hot Shop. Artist Shelley Muzlowski Allen working at the gallery. Photos courtesy of Duncan McClellan Gallery.

## Venues

**The Bayside Hilton** will provide rooms and host a number of events including registration, lectures, and tech display. This contemporary downtown hotel is steps away from white sandy beaches, an 8-minute walk from the Dali Museum and a 10-minute walk from the Mahaffey Theater.

**Imagine Museum** is a new fine art institution in the up-and-coming Central Arts District of St. Petersburg. Its primary collection displays a diverse and growing number of pieces that represent the Studio Glass movement in America, beginning with the 1960s and extending into the Contemporary Glass movement. It will host the educational and professional resource center and the GAS silent and live auctions plus a conference favorite, the Goblet Grab.

**Zen Glass Studio & Gallery**, a flameworking studio founded by artists David Walker and Josh Poll, will open its doors and host a number of flameworking demonstrations.

**The Duncan McClellan Gallery**, nestled in the heart of the Warehouse Art District, features an exhibit space that showcases nationally and internationally recognized glass artists. It's state-of-the-art hot shop will host a number of hot glass demos.

**The Mahaffey Theater**, which will host the opening reception and lectures, is located downtown just steps away from the cultural center and minutes away from world famous museums. It is an historical and cultural gem featuring an elegant ballroom space and spectacular waterfront views.

**The Morean Arts Center** has roots that date back to 1917 as the Art Club of St. Petersburg. It focuses on an innovative approach to art and art education, including programs for underserved youth, and will host a number of demonstrations, the member show and student exhibitions. It's sister organization, the Morean Center for Clay, is located in a beautiful and funky historic train station and will host the closing night party.

Attendees can also opt to attend a **Sarasota Day Tour**, a short hour long trip south of St. Petersburg. This tour includes stops at the Ringling Museum and Glass Pavilion and the new Richard & Barbara Basch Visual Arts Center, with a hot shop and a cold shop that are visually stunning and geared toward collaborative work in glass.

Throughout the four days of the conference, attendees will have the freedom to explore the warmth of the sun and the beautiful sandy beaches of St. Pete. As always, Glass Art Society Conference attendees leave with a wealth of new knowledge and memories to last a lifetime.

## Important Notes

Please note, to register you must be a current GAS member. Be sure to register early to reserve your spot due to limited space.

GAS members who are interested in reducing their conference fees are encouraged to apply for the work exchange program. GAS student members are invited to apply for scholarships to alleviate some of the expense of attending the conference. Tech display and advertising opportunities are also available to businesses and schools on our website and in conference publications.

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*Glass Art Society is a nonprofit whose mission is to encourage excellence, advance education, promote the application and development of glass arts, and support the worldwide community of artists who work with glass. For more information visit [www.glassart.org](http://www.glassart.org).*

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