

## Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future The 2020 GAS Conference in Småland, Sweden



by *The Glass Art Society Staff*

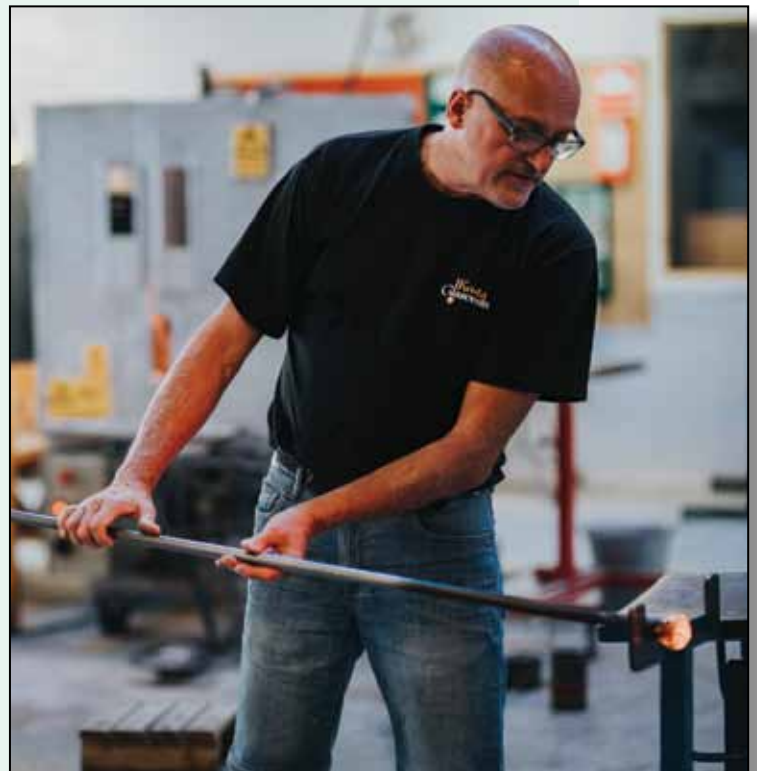
Photography by AB Destination Småland

For the second time in three years, the Glass Art Society (GAS) is heading to Europe May 20–23 for its annual Glass Art Society Conference. The 49th Annual Conference, to be held in Småland, Sweden, will be a conference like no other. The Kingdom of Crystal (Glasriket) offers a more rural setting than most GAS Conferences and will allow many unique events and experiences.

### Expanding the Traditions of Swedish Glass Art

In the Kingdom of Crystal, handblown glass has been made since 1742. While glassmaking is evolving in the region, you will still find glassblowers working hand in hand with designers to stretch the possibilities of glass. The 2020 GAS Conference hopes to stretch those possibilities even further. The glass community in Sweden takes the traditions founded in the glass factories and combines them with new and innovative techniques to create areas of growth and opportunity. By bringing glassworkers to Sweden from across the globe, GAS hopes to create an exchange that will not only introduce others to these opportunities but will also educate attendees about the sustainable practices that play such a significant role in working with glass in Sweden.

“There are so many opportunities for glassmakers in Sweden, and we hope to expose our membership to those opportunities while sharing the distinct international flair of a GAS conference with the glass community in Småland,” said Brandi Clark, Interim Executive Director of the Glass Art Society.





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The Kingdom of Crystal is made up of Kronoberg and Kalmar counties, and there will be conference activities across the region. Venues will include Kosta Glass Factory, Kosta Glass Center, Målerås Glassworks, Pukeberg Glassworks, and The Glass Factory in Emmaboda along with many others. GAS will be transporting people between the various venues and towns to make sure that attendees can make the most of their visit.

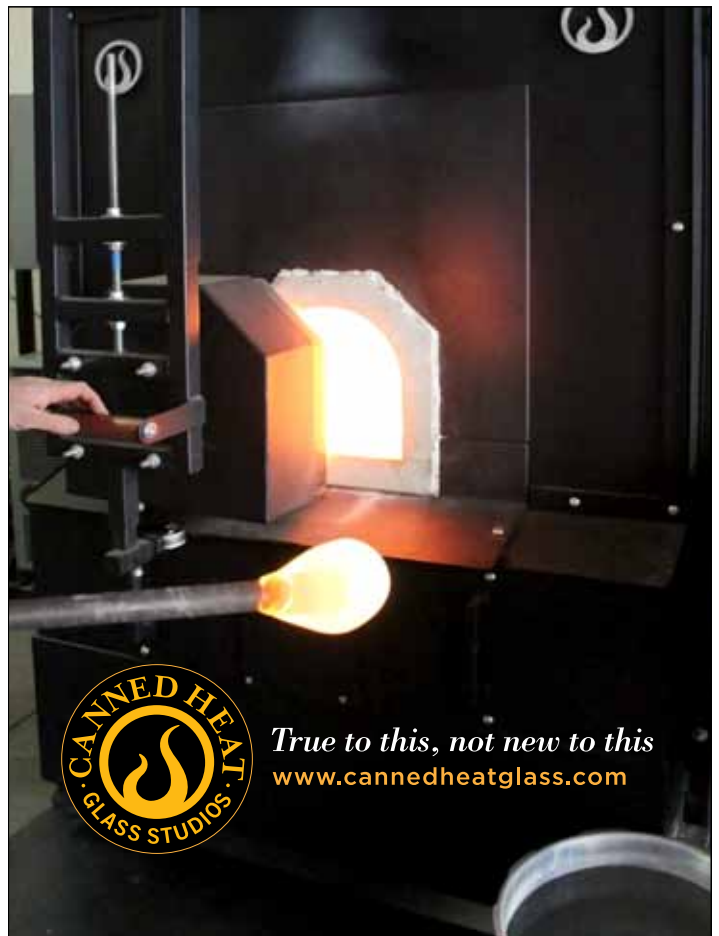
**New Possibilities for the Glass Art Community**

Each new conference brings with it new possibilities—possibilities for education, growth, and forming connections—not only for the individual artist but for our community as a whole. We open ourselves up to new ways of communicating, expressing ourselves, working with others, and working with the common thread that brings us all together—glass.

In Sweden, we have the possibility of learning from a culture that greatly values the contribution that the glass factories and workers have made for more than 250 years. With the partnerships built during this conference, the Glass Art Society not only continues its pledge to take a more active role in leading the global glass community, but it also prioritizes sustainability, innovation, and the future of glass. More information about the 2020 GAS Conference in Småland, Sweden, will be available on the GAS website starting this summer.

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