



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT:
Fifth Annual Fuel Their Fire Auction
March 9-23, 2017
and Visiting Artists Lineup
March-May, 2017

Tacoma, Wash. —

Beginning March 9 and running through March 23, Museum of Glass (MOG) will hold its fifth Fuel Their Fire auction, during which arts patrons and collectors will have the unique opportunity to sponsor an artist for a five-day residency in the Museum's Hot Shop. Without financial constraints, Visiting Artists are free to use their time in the Hot Shop to innovate and explore new creative directions, often resulting in breakthroughs, new bodies of work, and major career advances. Contributions to Fuel Their Fire are instrumental to this development.

Sharing a quote from 2017 Visiting Artist, Shayna Leib, helps to express the impact of this program,

"I am excited about my upcoming residency at MOG because it will provide me with access to equipment I don't have available at my studio, making certain glass pieces possible. It also means having a wonderful and skilled team that can help me accomplish things that require more than one assistant. I follow the MOG Team on Instagram and I can't wait to work with them!"

This year there are 11 artists participating: Albert Paley, Fritz Dreisbach, Ginny Ruffner, brothers Einar and Jamex de la Torre, Sidney Hutter, Shayna Leib, Martin Janecky, Norwood Viviano, David Walters, and Toots Zynsky. Fuel Their Fire details are available at <https://museumofglass.org/support/fuel-their-fire>.

Museum of Glass is pleased to present our spring lineup of Visiting Artists. Join us in welcoming these masters at work in our live viewing Hot Shop amphitheater.

Etsuko Ichikawa - March 1-5

Born and raised in Tokyo, Ichikawa has lived in Seattle for over two decades. While she calls both places home, her spiritual-seeking and aesthetic sensibilities strongly call to Japan. Her work is actually a reflection of how she sees herself in these two distinctively different cultures. She is very involved in supporting social, political, and environmental issues and her working media varies as broadly as the causes she supports. During her Residency, Ichikawa hopes to create a completely new body of work: a series of replica of **Jōmon** vessels using uranium glass and an extended series of sculptural work using cane made by uranium glass.



Ethan Stern - March 8-12

Ethan Stern's artwork begins in the fire of the hot shop, but comes to life as it is completed in the cold shop through an intricate and time-consuming engraving process. His work is an ongoing exploration of texture and light – by carving into the vessels he creates in the hot shop, Stern is able to harness light to create a complex, lustrous surface. Stern, founder of Diamond Life Studio, lives and works in Seattle. He will use his Residency to continue to push the boundaries of the scale and geometric shapes of his artwork.



James Mongrain - March 15-19

James Mongrain is doing double duty at Museum of Glass. Not only is he joining MOG as a Visiting Artist, but his exhibition, *Ispirazione: James Mongrain in the George R. Stroemple Collection* is on display in the Klorfine Gallery. Mongrain's talent for glassblowing is renowned. Over the course of his career he has spent thousands of hours making goblets and other vessels, practicing traditional Italian methods, until he attained spectacular proficiency. In 1994, he joined Team Chihuly and became Chihuly's head gaffer, a position that he holds today. According to Chihuly, "Jimmy can make anything in glass." He is legendary for his ability to



wield and shape enormous gathers of hot glass, dexterously manipulating the temperamental medium into Chihuly's signature pieces.

Ginny Ruffner - March 29-April 2

Artist Ginny Ruffner is well-known for sculptures and public art installations inspired by nature. This spring she will return to the Hot Shop to investigate a different phenomenon, the ways which glass art can intersect with the growing world of virtual and augmented reality. Ruffner will experiment with creating glass lenses designed to fit in VR (virtual reality) devices like Google Cardboard, an inexpensive cardboard holder which allows viewers to use their own phones to create virtual reality experiences. Ruffner lives and works in Seattle, and her intricate glass sculptures have influenced the field of frameworking worldwide.



Ruffner's Residency will be available for sponsorship through the Fuel Their Fire online auction.

Ann Wählström - April 19-29

Ann Wählström is an artist and designer who has benefitted from many influences. Starting in ceramics and later glass in her native Sweden, she had the opportunity to come to the United States as a student. With solid technical skills, Wählström entered a very artistic environment at Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington and later Rhode Island School of Design, meeting incredible American and international artists and craftspeople working in glass. More recently, Wählström has been creating



her ideas on paper and then collaborating with others to execute the works. She commented that this process gives her "a great chance to explore ideas that I could not make on my own". Her collaboration with the Museum of Glass Hot Shop Team will enable her to turn her latest thinking into finished works.

Mary Shaffer - May 3-7

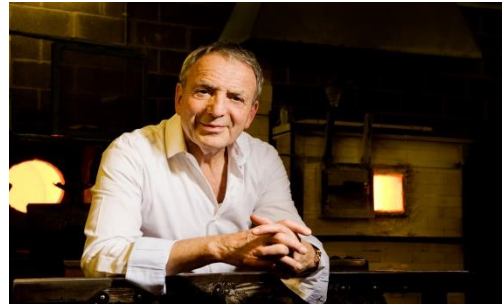
Mary Shaffer creates sculptures from a variety of media, including slumped glass, bronze, found objects, stone, light, fire, fiber optics, sound, and performance. Shaffer is widely recognized as one of the founding artists of the American Studio Glass movement. In the early 1970s, she experimented with a technique called "mid-air slumping"



inspired by the way the auto industry shaped windshield glass for cars. This technique allowed to her to control the ways which glass moved while it was heated, and was an integral innovation for her mixed media sculptures. Her May Residency will be Shaffer's first at Museum of Glass.

Peter Layton - May 10-14

British artist Peter Layton has been the driving force behind the development of glass as a contemporary art form in the United Kingdom. Although he started his art career in ceramics, he was introduced to glassblowing as a student at University of Iowa in the 1960s. With the help of American Studio Glass artists Harvey Littleton and Marvin Lipofsky,



Layton built the first glass furnace in Covenant Garden and established a glass department at Hornsey College of Art at Middlesex University. His blown glass work is a combination of bold color combinations and asymmetrical shapes. This will be his first visit to the Museum of Glass Hot Shop.

Fritz Dreisbach - May 17-21

Drawing inspiration from molecular properties of molten glass, comics such as *Flash Gordon*, and the balance between tight control and fluid spontaneity, Fritz Dreisbach creates work that challenges technical standards and explores the limits of his material. His approach embraces a tongue-in-cheek irreverence that imbues each piece with intelligent humor.



A founding member of the Glass Arts Society, Dreisbach was awarded their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002. Given his proficiency and passion for sharing glass techniques, Dreisbach has inspired many to refer to him as the "Johnny Appleseed" of Glass, and true to form, he has spent time teaching in over 300 institutions world-wide. His Residency at MOG will be the first in a two-part residency series, where Dreisbach will first make components of an installation, and then will return to MOG later in 2017 or early 2018 to complete the piece. Dreisbach's Residency will be available for sponsorship through the Fuel Their Fire online auction.

Martin Janecky - May 31-June 4

For Martin Janecky, glass is a way of life. Beginning his glass career at the young age of 13, Janecky grew up in the Czech Republic with parents who were both seasoned glass workers. He has worked for designers around the world, first coming to the United States in 2003 as a demonstrating artist in The Studio at Corning Museum of Glass. Since then he has been an



instructor and visiting artist across America. Janecky's work is a beautifully modern approach to neoclassical portraiture. Busts and figures convey incredible emotional depth and thoughtful realism, made more poignant by the skill, patience, and fortitude required to create them. He is considered one of the premier glass sculptors working today. Janecky's Residency will be available for sponsorship through the Fuel Their Fire online auction.

Image Credits, Top to Bottom:

Etusko Ichikawa in her studio. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Ethan Stern shapes a vessel in the Museum of Glass Hot Shop. Photo by Ken Emy.

James Mongrain sculpts a large vessel during a residency at Museum of Glass. Photo by Ken Emy.

Ginny Ruffner. Photo courtesy of Museum of Glass.

Ann Wählström in her studio. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Peter Layton. Photo by Ester Segarra.

Fritz Dreisbach working in the Museum of Glass Hot Shop. Photo courtesy of Habatat Galleries.

Martin Janecky working. Photo courtesy of the artist.

About Museum of Glass

Located in Tacoma, Washington, Museum of Glass is a premier contemporary art museum dedicated to glass and glass making in the west coast's largest and most active museum glass studio. Opened in 2002, the Museum has established a reputation for hosting impactful and engaging artist residencies, organizing nationally traveling exhibitions, and creating unique programs for visitors while building a growing permanent collection chronicling the contemporary glass art movement. Museum of Glass provides an environment for artists and the public to ignite creativity, fuel discovery, and enrich their lives through glass and glassmaking. Museum of Glass is a non-profit organization sponsored in part by the City of Tacoma Arts Commission, ArtsFund, The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, The Dimmer Family Foundation, and the Driscoll Foundation.



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