



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 17, 2018

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**MEDIA ALERT:**

**Fifteenth Annual Bird Lovers' Weekend at Museum of Glass**

Featuring Live Glass Bird-Making, Live Birds, and Family-Friendly Activities

Tacoma, Wash. — littala's *Birds by Toikka* returns to Museum of Glass for the 15th consecutive year from October 26-28, 2018. The internationally-renowned glass creations from Finland's glass giant, littala, are the focus of Bird Lovers' Weekend, which will feature several opportunities to celebrate wild birds.

We are honored to have Finnish master glassblowers Helena Welling and Juha Saarikko create glass birds designed by the legendary Professor Oiva Toikka in MOG's Hot Shop Friday through Sunday. Over 30 birds designed by Professor Toikka will also be on display in the Grand Hall. The birds are part of a promised gift from Paul Kangas.

During Bird Lovers' Weekend, visitors will have the option to purchase a limited-edition *Puffin*. One of the most unique *Birds by Toikka*, the *Puffin* is an exclusive design made for Museum of Glass. It will be introduced and sold only at the Museum of Glass Store for several months before being made available for wider distribution. In addition to the *Puffin*, birds made in the Hot Shop by Welling and Saarikko will be available for purchase on October 28 and 29.

Bird Lovers' Weekend events will also include a variety of art and educational activities. Visitors have an opportunity to study and interact with three varieties of live birds, under the direction of The Falconer, John Prucich. Prucich specializes in education and

entertainment with birds of prey. Visitors can also learn about the biology of birds with help from Slater Museum and discuss how the Tahoma Audubon Society connects people to birds and nature. It's a bird lovers' paradise!

### **Schedule of events:**

#### Friday, October 26

- 10am – 5pm: Glass bird-making demonstrations by littala artists
- 10am – 5pm: View a bird related film in the Theater
- 10am-5pm: Imagine and draw your own state bird in the Education Studio

#### Saturday, October 27

- 10am – 5pm: Glass bird-making demonstrations by littala artists
- 10am – 5pm: Visit Tahoma Audubon's table to learn about birds
- 10am – 5pm: See specimens from Slater Museum and explore the biology of birds
- 10am – 5pm: View films related to birds and birding in the theater
- 10am-5pm: Imagine and draw your own state bird in the Education Studio
- 12 – 3pm: Enjoy a special visit The Falconer, John Prucich and interact with an owl, a falcon, and a vulture
- 11am – 3pm: Participate in a special bird-related craft project
- Birds handmade in the Hot Shop by Welling and Saarikko today will be available for purchase on October 28.

#### Sunday, October 28

- 10:30am – 12pm: Museum Member Reception includes bites and beverages, an opportunity to meet the littala artists, Helena Welling and Juha Saarikko, and a chance to get up close and personal with The Falconer and his birds.  
Non-members may purchase a ticket to attend for \$15.
- 12 – 2pm: Enjoy a special visit The Falconer, John Prucich and interact with an owl, a falcon, and a vulture
- 12 – 5pm: Glass bird-making demonstrations by littala artists
- 12 – 5pm: Visit Tahoma Audubon's table to learn about birds
- 12 – 5pm: See specimens from Slater Museum and explore the biology of birds

- 12 – 5pm: View films related to birds and birding in the theater
- 2 – 3pm: Enjoy a *Glass from the Past* discussion on Nordic Glass and Iittala Glass Factory in the Hot Shop
- Birds handmade in the Hot Shop by Welling and Saarikko today will be available for purchase on October 31.

Bird Lovers' Weekend activities are free with paid admission to Museum of Glass, unless indicated otherwise.



Iittala artists Helena Welling and Juha Saarikko



*Puffin*, Designed by Professor Oiva Toikka

### **About Museum of Glass**

Located in Tacoma, Washington, Museum of Glass is a premier contemporary art museum dedicated to glass and glassmaking 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 development of modern and contemporary glass. 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, Leonard and Norma Klorfine Foundation, The Dimmer Family Foundation, and D.V. & Ida McEachern Charitable Trust.



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