



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT:

**Collaborative Exhibition Features Ancestral and Contemporary Art
from Salish Sea Region**

Tacoma, WA. — In a unique partnership, The Evergreen State College Longhouse and Museum of Glass organized *Translations: An Exploration of Glass by Northwest Native Carvers and Weavers*, an exhibition that marks the historic collaboration by artists who are family members of Mary Ellen Hillaire (Lummi), Gerald (Bruce) Miller (Skokomish), and Hazel Pete (Chehalis)--three of the Pillars of the Evergreen Longhouse. The exhibition is guest curated by Tina Kuckkahn-Miller, Vice President, Indigenous Arts and Education at Evergreen State College and founding Director of the Longhouse.

In January of 2015, the group explored the many possibilities of glass during a five-day residency at Museum of Glass. Under the leadership of glass experts Dan and Raya Friday (Lummi), grandparents, parents, children, and grandchildren from these three families produced innovative new work in glass that forms the core of this exhibition. Their artistic inspiration was the many historical baskets, bentwood boxes, and sculptural figures from their families' collections and those held in the archival collections of the Washington State Historical Society. The engagement between these artists and the historical archive opened a wealth of creative opportunities to translate expressions of their heritage into glass. In addition to the glass art, the exhibition will also feature original carvings and weavings from the three families' personal collections.

The Longhouse Education and Cultural Center ("House of Welcome") is a public service center at The Evergreen State College. Built in collaboration with Northwest tribes, and opened in 1995, it was the first building of its kind on a public campus in the United States. Founded upon a vision of hospitality and service, it was developed as a gathering place for people of all cultural backgrounds to teach and learn with each other. Today, this work continues as the Longhouse is a multi-purpose facility, able to serve a variety of educational, cultural and community functions while promoting Indigenous arts and cultures through their programs.

The founding Director of the "House of Welcome" Longhouse Education and Cultural Center since 1996, Tina Kuckkahn-Miller, became Evergreen's first Vice President of Indigenous Arts and Education in March 2018. With degrees in education and law from the University of

Wisconsin-Madison, Kuckkahn-Miller is an adjunct member of the faculty at Evergreen who regularly teaches in the Master of Public Administration Program. In her roles at Evergreen, Kuckkahn-Miller works with a multitude of tribal peoples and artists throughout the Pacific Rim. Museum of Glass is honored to have Kuckkahn-Miller curate the *Translations* exhibition.

“Master weaver Hazel Pete (Chehalis) once said that “Native people have always used what is available—and today we have the world.” As we consider what it means to be an Indigenous artist in today’s world, we must broaden the space to encompass all forms of creative expression. The carvers and weavers represented in this exhibition create from a cultural foundation of heritage and identity that is expressed in their art forms. The inspiration that they gain from their ancestors has now been translated into a new medium of glass. Through the pieces there are many conversations occurring—among the artists, among the artists and the audiences and among the pieces themselves. The artwork both brokers and translates these conversations across the generations into meaningful dialogue about what it means to be an indigenous artist in today’s world.”

Tina Kuckkahn-Miller, Vice President of Indigenous Arts and Education
Curator of *Translations: An Exploration of Glass by Northwest Carvers and Weavers*



Ho-Wan-Ut Haila Old Peter laying out cane to form design for *Thunderbird* during residency at Museum of Glass
Photo courtesy of Longhouse Education and Cultural Center



Ho-Wan-Ut Haila Old Peter (American Skokomish/Chehalis)
Thunderbird, 2015
Blown glass, 8 3/4 x 9 inches
Collection of the artist

Photo by Duncan Price

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, The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, The Dimmer Family Foundation, and the Driscoll Foundation.



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