

AGG Goes to Rochester



Personifikation Böhmen a Mucha panel presented by speaker Christina Snopko. Photo by the artist.

by Tony Glander

This year's American Glass Guild (AGG) conference, from May 19–21, 2017, brings together leaders, practitioners, and just great people in Rochester, New York, one of the most artistic cities anywhere. It will take place at the Radisson Hotel Rochester Riverside located on the Genesee River. The program committee has scoured not only America, but has also gone abroad to fill this conference with incredible speakers and instructors who will elevate the artists' game by leaving them fully inspired. The auction, tour, and exhibition are all making some slight changes to make this an unforgettable conference.

Preconference Workshops

Two days prior to the conference on May 17 and 18, the AGG will be offering a wide assortment of impressive workshops. To help artists on the marketing side, Bill Dexter will be presenting a class on *Photoshop for Marketing*. Combine that with a social media workshop from Amanda Chestnut and *PR Tactics to Boost Your Business* by Lisa Hahn and Joseph Cavalieri, and you get better looking photographs that will be seen by more and more people!

If you enjoy hands on workshops, Tim Carey will be leading a class in stained glass painting and fusing. Judith Schaechter will also be there divulging how she creates the tonal changes in her flash glass. A full list of workshops can be found on the AGG website.

Conference Presentations, Opening Reception, and Exhibition

Friday through Sunday, May 19–21, attendees will be presented with a variety of talks. Friday morning's talk about design will be from world-renowned metal sculptor, Albert Paley, a Rochester local. Additional presentations will cover everything from business and glass conservation to the independent work of artist Robert Kehlman.



St. Paul by Kłos®. Photo by Sam Halstead.

On Saturday morning, Swiss artist Christina Snopko will present a talk on Alphonse Mucha's work in St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague, Czech Republic. During the keynote presentation Saturday night, California artists David Judson and Tim Carey of Judson Studios will discuss their Church of the Resurrection window project that, when completed, will be the world's largest stained glass feature that utilizes fused glass to achieve colors.

A half day of talks on Sunday proves to be just as enticing as the previous days' presentations. A selection of speakers will present a panel discussion about the many facets of completing any job. Later, Toni Sikes will cover grants and submissions for public art. The complete list of speakers and their biographies can be found on the AGG website.

The annual American Glass Now Exhibition will be on display at the hotel for membership before it travels to Washington, D.C., for a public event. An opening reception will be held Friday evening off-site, with complimentary shuttle service to and from the event.

The Perfect Experience at the Perfect Venue

Rochester couldn't be a better location for glass art. From the moment you arrive at the airport, you are greeted with a large contemporary installation of Peter McGrain's work in the exterior wall of the concourse. The town itself has many sites of stained glass work from historic to contemporary. Many of them are on the annual tour on Sunday, May 21, 2017.

Nancy Gong, this year's conference chair, has an incredible piece on the grounds of the Rochester Museum and Science Center, *Genesee River Watershed*, that incorporates the architecture and the ground surrounding it, as well as rainwater poured on it from the roof of the structure above. The water goes into the drain below and is filtered by the ground. It is then used to water a nearby garden, thus depicting the story of storm water management in beautiful antique glass.

Historically, both the Christ Episcopal Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church have windows from Henry Sharp and Louis Comfort Tiffany. The Third Presbyterian Church offers Tiffany glass but also includes Louis Chapin, Charles Allen, David Maitland Armstrong, Willett, and Redding, Baird & Company, and even windows from three generations of artists from Pike Studios. The four and a half hour tour will be packed with a diverse body of work and guided by artist Valeria O'Hara of Pike Studio.

Along with great talks, an incredible selection of workshops, and amazing glasswork on the tour, the most important feature to any AGG conference is always the networking of the members. The annual banquet, a few lunches, and even breakfast activities are all being planned to help foster discussion and camaraderie, because in the end, the AGG's best resource is its members! **GA**

Visit www.americanglassguild.org and click on the "Conference" tab for complete information about the 2017 event and easy registration.



Genesee River Watershed by Nancy Gong. Photo by Tony Glander.

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