



Featuring the latest from the Contemporary Glass Society

Erica Poyser, *Constricted*, First Prize.
Photo by Matt Stone and Matt Evans.

The 2021 Glass Sellers/Contemporary Glass Society Glass Prize and New Graduate Review

by Pam Reekie

The Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) is delighted to announce both the winners of the Glass Sellers/CGS 2021 Glass Prize and the graduates to be included in the *New Graduate Review 2021*. Because of the pandemic, CGS was unable to award a Prize last year or produce the *New Graduate Review*, so we are delighted this year to include both 2020 and 2021 graduates.

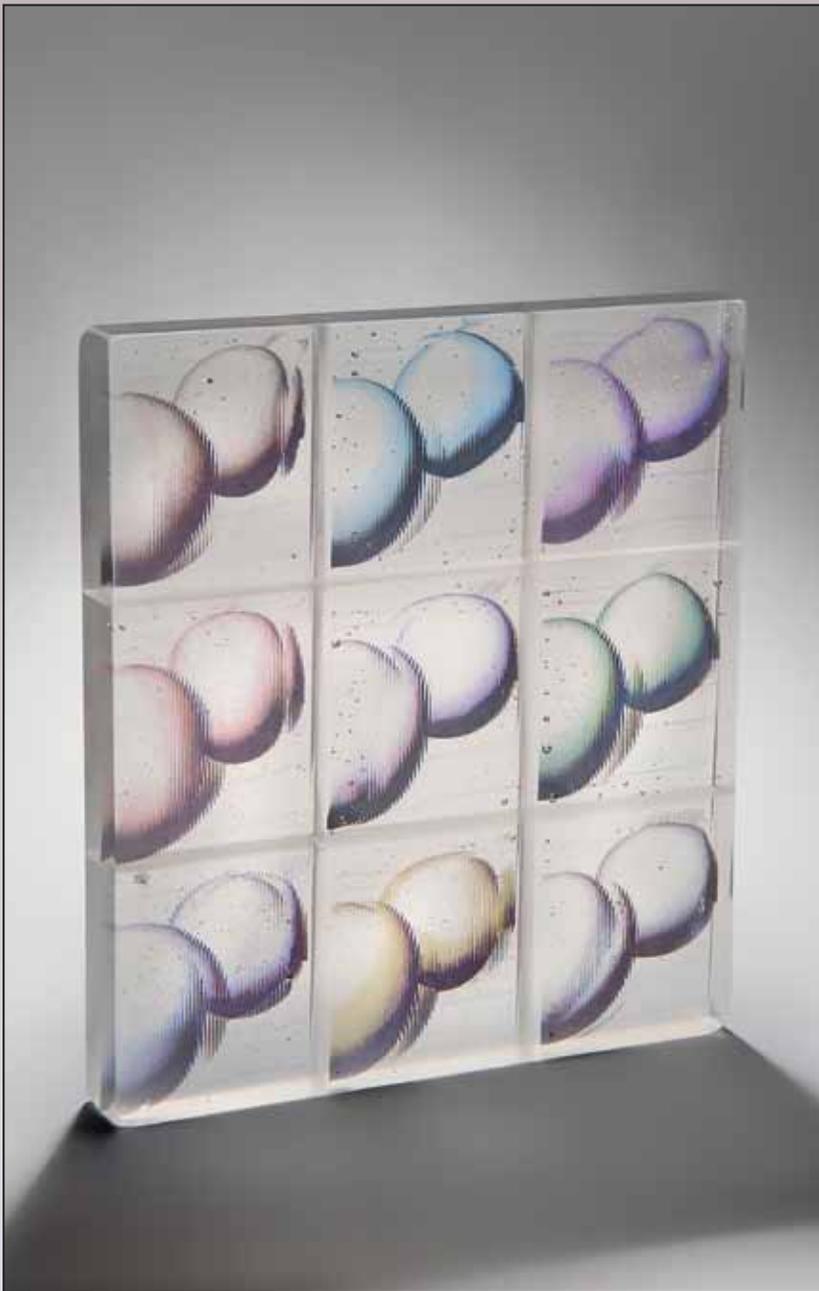
Impressive Quality During Difficult Times

It has been an unimaginably difficult time for students who graduated over the past 18 months. Despite this, we had 38 excellent applications from graduates attending 13 different colleges spanning 2020 and 2021. The quality was really impressive, especially considering the tough time that students have all experienced. The judging panel had a very hard task selecting four winners for the prizes plus another 16 graduates for the Review. The First, Second, and Runner-Up prizes were awarded to the following students:

- 1st Prize, Erica Poyser, BA, from De Montfort University, Leicester,
- 2nd Prize – Dr Helen Slater Stokes, PhD, from Royal College of Art, London,
- Runner Up – Sacha Delabre, BA, University of Sunderland, and
- Runner Up – Stephanie Harper, MA, from University for the Creative Arts, Farnham.

First Place winner, Erica Poyser, stated, “Wow, this is crazy! Thank you! I am so excited and honored to have won this prize! There were so many amazing glass graduates this year, and they have all created such amazing work in these extra challenging circumstances.

“I am so proud of the work I have been able to accomplish this year. I couldn’t have done it without the incredible help of my glass partner Rosie Perrett and my incredible teacher Jill Ellinworth! Thank you again for this prize. It’s such an amazing way to end my three years of University!”



*Dr Helen Slater Stokes, Oculus, Second Prize.
Photo by Ester Segarra.*



*Sacha Delabre, Time to go, Runner-Up.
Photo by Michael Goncalves.*



*Stephanie Harper, As Above, Runner-Up.
Photo by the artist.*

Capturing Overwhelming Emotions in Glass

Part of Erica’s winning application for the prize was her passionate explanation of her work, which struck a chord with the Judges. “The process of glassblowing and its endless creative capabilities are an addiction to anyone who is lucky enough to have a go. I found my passion for glassblowing through my Design Crafts degree, and I am working hard to learn as much as I can about the art. I want to pursue a career in glassmaking and keep expanding my knowledge of the material.

“A 2020 United Kingdom summer survey, reported by Young Minds, resulted in 80 percent of respondents agreeing that the Coronavirus pandemic made their mental health worse. My collection of glass pieces represents the overwhelming emotions many have tackled alone over the past year. Hopefully representing those emotions in a physical form can bring a cathartic feeling, as people can relate my art to their own emotions from the past year.”

Encouraging a New Generation of Glass Artists

The selection panel was comprised of artist Angela Jarman, glass collector and CGS Trustee Michael Barnes, glass artist and CGS Trustee Sarah L. Brown, and Leigh Baildham, Chairman of Trustees of The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London Charity Fund (WCGSCF). They had a long and arduous task in selecting the four Winners, five Highly Commended, and 11 Commended graduates to be included in the *Review*.

The judges were honored to be able to provide support for the graduates, who over the last couple of years have completed their degrees in unimaginably difficult circumstances. Leigh Baildham recently shared the joy that the WCGSCF feels in their involvement with the award. “The WCGSCF is delighted to be associated with the CGS Graduate Award, which we hope will help to encourage another new generation of studio glass artisans.”

Professor Michael Barnes MD FRCP, CGS Board member and sponsor of the Graduate Prize, also noted that it was a pleasure to once again judge this year's prize. "Considering this was such an awful year in many ways, it was great to see so many entrants and such high quality. As always, we struggled to give the prizes with so many good pieces to choose from. However, a winner emerged and there were several really high-quality Runners Up as well as Highly Commended and Commended entrants. Well done to everyone, and I really hope that the prize will help some excellent artists become established in the glass world."

Commended and Highly Commended Artists

The CGS *New Graduate Review 2021* is a 16-page publication, which will be circulated to all CGS Members & Associates. It will also be circulated through *Neues Glas - New Glass: Art & Architecture* magazine.

Highly Recommended Artists included in the *Review* are:

- Wai Yan Choi, MA, Royal College of Art, London,
- Belinda King, BA, De Montfort University, Leicester,
- Pratibha Mistry, MA, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham,
- Rosie Perrett, BA, De Montfort University, Leicester, and
- Moon Ju Suh, MFA, Edinburgh College of Art.

Commended Artists included in the *Review* are:

- Kate Courtney-Taylor, BA, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham,
- Catherine Dunstan, MA, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham,
- Shona Escombe, HNC, City of Glasgow College,
- Steven Graham, BA, University of Stirling,
- Ossin Hanrahan, BA, Crawford College of Art and Design, Ireland,

- Chengyu Li, MA, Royal College of Art, London,
- Ethel Moir, BA, Crawford College of Art and Design, Ireland,
- Tamar "Nikki" Palmer, BA, University of Wolverhampton,
- Áine Ryan, BA, Crawford College of Art and Design, Ireland,
- Bethany Walker, MA, Royal College of Art, London, and
- Samantha Wuidart, De Montfort University, Leicester.

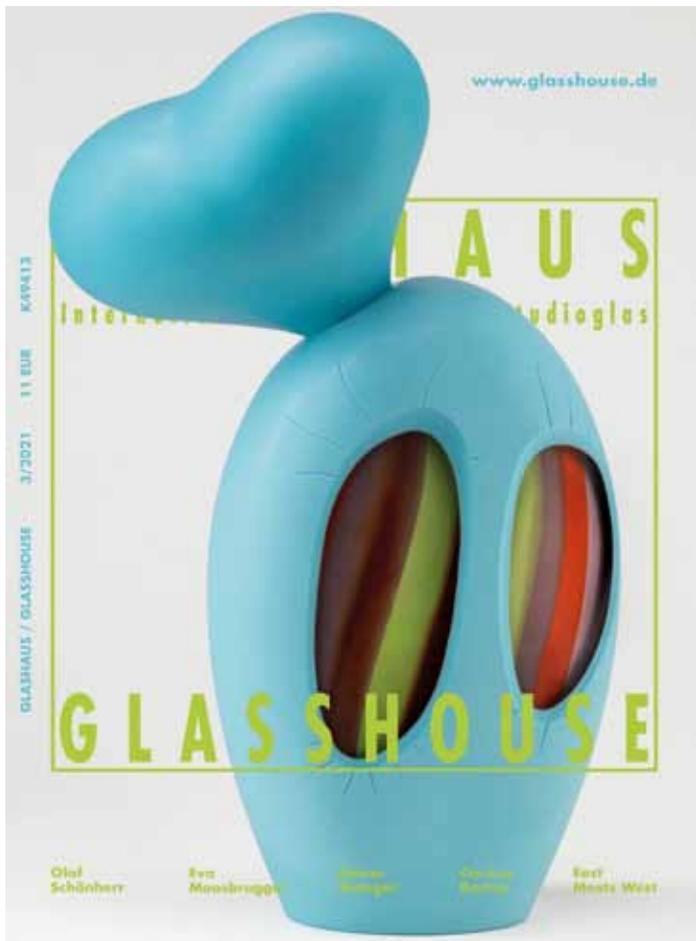
This publication will give CGS an opportunity to showcase work from the talented prize winners plus work from several more emerging British and Irish graduates. It is vital to promote all glass education courses, since more and more creative courses are threatened with closure.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

We are extremely grateful to all of our sponsors who provided financial support and prizes for the Glass Prize and the *New Graduate Review 2021*, without whom this would not have been possible. A sincere thanks to Professor Michael Barnes MD FRCP, The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London Charity Fund, Creative Glass UK, Pearsons Glass, Warm Glass, *Neues Glas - New Glass: Art & Architecture* magazine, and Alan J. Poole.

The Contemporary Glass Society is widely regarded as the foremost organization in the UK for promoting, supporting, and encouraging cutting-edge contemporary glass and glassmakers within the wider art world. Visit www.cgs.org.uk for more information on CGS, its upcoming events, and becoming a member. **GA**

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ISGB News continued from page 27

Mauro Vianello, one of four artists who took part in the Flame Off.



Exploring New Educational Possibilities

As the new educational director of the ISGB, this online Gathering makes me more eager to explore the new possibilities that our educational platform, ISGBeducation.org, brings. Oddly enough, my body also felt like I was at *The Gathering*. Jet lag—I am from the Netherlands—was swapped for a lack of sleep due to virtual cocktail receptions in the middle of the night. Being the last one in the bar was swapped for being the last to hang out in the Zoom room and starting to explore the filter options.

We don't yet know what 2022 will bring for the ISGB and *The Gathering*. However, we will be working on creating online content for our members no matter what. **GA**

Visit www.isgb.org to find out how to become a member of the International Society of Glass Beadmakers and learn more about additional educational resources and upcoming events.

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