

The Contemporary Glass Society Turning Twenty-Five and Getting Better Every Year



by Susan Purser Hope, CGS Chair

What a spectacular year 2022 is going to be for the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS). Not only has the United Nations designated it as the International Year of Glass, but it is also our 25th anniversary supporting studio glassmakers! From humble beginnings 25 years ago, CGS has grown over the years into a thriving and proactive society supporting a membership of over 1,000. Our members mainly live in the United Kingdom, but we have a growing international contingent as well.

Celebrating Contemporary Glass

To commemorate our quarter century representing and promoting contemporary glass, we are presenting a fantastic program of both online and live exhibitions held around the country plus a series of monthly themed events. These are in collaboration with other national glass organizations, galleries, and colleges that celebrate and promote the strength and glory of the glass community within the UK.



Ayako Tani, *Vision*, 2014.
Photo by Jo Howell.



Bruno Romanelli, *Solaris*, 2008.
Photo by Alan Tabor.



David Reekie, *Follow My Leader*, 2003.
Photo by the artist.

One of the major highlights is our featured exhibition, *CGS—Then, Now, the Future*. The last 25 years have seen dramatic changes and advances—political, technological, environmental, and social. This exhibition tells the history of both CGS and the world that it reflects with a chronological range of glass artwork from 25 of the United Kingdom's greatest glass artists spanning from Peter Layton, David Reekie, Catherine Hough, Colin Reid, and Bruno Romanelli through to Christopher Day and Ayako Tani. Also featured are Elliot Walker, winner of the second season of *Blown Away*, and Erica Poyser, winner of our latest Graduate prize and a symbol of the future of studio glass.

The years are represented by a piece made during that year and demonstrate the advances and changes that happened each year as well as in the development of contemporary glass. People who visit the exhibition will be able to see modern history reflected through glass art!



Elliot Walker, *Bodge Job*, 2021.
Photo by Simon Bruntnell.

Collaborating to Promote Modern Glass Art

CGS was delighted to be asked to open the exhibition in the new Glass Museum, which is located in the Grade II listed former Stuart Crystal Glass Works in the national Glass Quarter in Stourbridge, England. The Museum, which opens in April 2022, will house the Stourbridge Glass Collection, one of the finest worldwide holdings of British and international 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th century glass. *CGS—Then, Now, the Future* will run from July 22 through October 31, 2022.

Because we represent so many contemporary glass artists, CGS is also collaborating with the Museum to make a significant contribution to its growing Contemporary Glass Collection by commissioning a new piece of work in a competition open to all CGS members. During our anniversary year and the opening year of the Museum, we thought this was a wonderful opportunity to promote contemporary glass.

The winning artwork will be on permanent display in the new Museum, celebrating both contemporary glass and Contemporary Glass Society's role in actively promoting it for over a quarter of a century. It will be installed and unveiled during the International Festival of Glass in August. Look out for *CGS—Then, Now, the Future* in 2022

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Visit www.cgs.org.uk for more information on the Contemporary Glass Society its upcoming events, and becoming a member.

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