

There are New Horizons for the Contemporary Glass Society

by Susan Purser Hope,
Chair of the Contemporary Glass Society

It is rare for anyone to be invited to exhibit at an iconic venue twice in two years. However, that is the case for the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS). Following on from their very successful and popular 25th Anniversary exhibition as part of the opening events at the new Stourbridge Glass Museum in 2022, CGS was delighted to be invited back and have returned to the Museum with their new exhibition, *New Horizons*, which runs for four months from July 13th to November 17th, 2024, and coincides with the Stourbridge-based *International Festival of Glass* and *Glass Biennale* which take place during high summer. The Stourbridge Glass Museum is an ideal venue to host this display of exemplary contemporary glass from CGS members, and alongside this stunning display of work, CGS is running supporting events including artist talks and an opportunity to meet some of the makers.

The Contemporary Glass Society is the premiere supporter and promoter of contemporary glass art and glass artists within the UK. Membership is open to glass artists at all stages of their careers, collectors, and members of the general public interested in contemporary glass.

Stourbridge Glass Museum is located in the center of the historic Stourbridge Glass Quarter. This world-class venue houses over 500 items from the internationally renowned Stourbridge Glass Collection, celebrating the heritage of glassmaking in both the local area and internationally. In addition, the Museum also highlights the best in contemporary glass design.

Tim Rawlinson, *Trewyn Light*. Photo by Alick Cotterill.



Ruth Shelley, Ghuncha Gul, kilnformed glass. Photo by the artist.



Dan and crew, 1976

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Here's to the next fifty!

—Bullseye Glass



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Verity Pulford, *Mutualism Triptych*
 Photo by Stephen Heaton Photography



Heike Brachlow, *Dione*
 Photo by Esther Segarra

The *New Horizons* exhibition showcases both traditional methods of glass making alongside some extraordinary modern techniques, all producing contemporary work that challenges and explores the boundaries of glass. All the work on display has either been made especially for the exhibition or is work that has been made since 2022 but has not been previously exhibited. Consequently, *New Horizons* provides a unique opportunity to experience work never seen before in public.

A diverse range of glassmaking processes from hot glass, casting, kiln formed, pâte de verre, lampworking, neon, and stained glass is represented by the following UK based artists: Anthony Amoako Attam, Emma Baker, Philip Baldwin and Monica Guggisberg, Heike Brachlow, Sarah Brown, Karen Browning, Penny Carter, James Devereux, Catherine Dunstan, Fiaz Elson, Dominic Fonde, Richard Jackson, Verity Pulford, Susan Purser Hope, Laura Quinn, Tim Rawlinson, Opal Seabrook, Ruth Shelley, Angela Thwaites, and Brian Waugh.

This cornucopia of glasswork reflects the dynamism and sheer talent of contemporary glass in the UK and demonstrates how glassmakers continue to develop and challenge our understanding of glass as an artistic medium. The Contemporary Glass Society's *New Horizons* exhibition is an opportunity to view and experience the best of British contemporary glass artists and should not be missed!

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CGS 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 becoming a CGS member.



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