

# Embracing Winter's Glow

## Glassblowing and Artistry Ahead of AGG's Annual Conference

by Zachary Green

During the bleak gray winter months, many glass artists hunkered down in their studios spending time creating new work. We hope you were among them! Members of the American Glass Guild were busily exploring and expanding their artistic expression, and have shared glimpses into their studios and new ideas.

### Winter's Creative Forge

Michigan artist Matt Kolenda, shared a recent piece. "At Kolenda Art Glass in Grand Rapids, we stayed warm by working near our kilns. We combined smashed sheet glass and frit to create custom slider sheets." Kolenda elaborated, "The sheets were then cut into over 3,000 tiles. These tiles were carefully arranged into our composition before undergoing a final full fuse."

Rita Shimelfarb, from Evanston, IL, graced us with her newest work. "Making pot melts is an intuitive process. Overthinking or planning kills it. If I catch myself procrastinating, I pull one of these [pot melts] out of my stash and make myself sit and stare." Shimelfarb noted, "Eventually, the chaos will organize itself into some kind of order. Then I add transparent enamels to bring the image out a little more. And voilà!"

Tony Serviente, from Ithaca, NY, showed us his exceptionally well-organized studio. He utilizes five different benches to keep things neat and to work efficiently. There's usually an assortment of projects in various stages of completion. Presently in play are two stained glass windows using the copper foil technique, one leaded panel, and one kiln-worked piece. Serviente's inspiration? "I can look out at the frigid Finger Lakes hills and be warm and happy with the colors that are independent of the season."

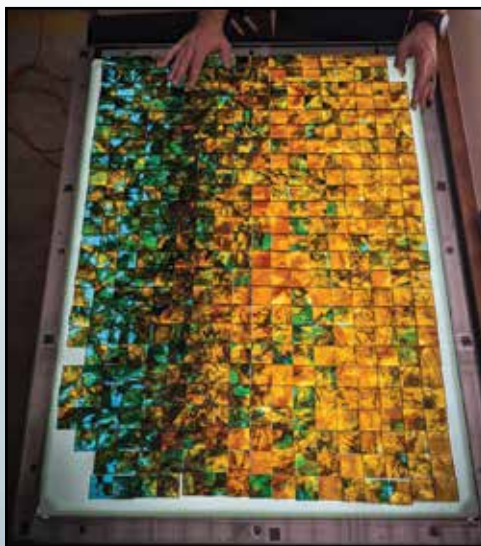
Alvaro Maury, from North Carolina, shared a cheerfully painted piece. The piece is inspired by an oil painting by Waded Alvarado, a well-known Puerto Rican artist. Notably, Alvarado is also a distant relative of Alvaro. The painting adds wonderful ambience to Alvaro's North Carolina home.



Rita Shimelfarb, *Untitled Work, fused glass, 2024.*  
Photo courtesy of the artist.



Judith Schaechter, *Super/Natural (detail), full installation is 96" x 60" x 60", engraved flashed glass, silver stain, and enamel, 2025.* Photo courtesy of the artist.



Matt Kolenda,  
*fused glass tiles, 2024.*  
Photo courtesy of the artist.





Alvaro Maury, *Untitled Work*, stained glass, 2021. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Conference attendees will also have the opportunity to attend the opening of *American Glass Now: 2025*. This is a juried exhibition on view at the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum (MCAM) from May 19–August 3.

There's still plenty of time for you to donate to and participate in the annual auction, the sole source of support for the James C. Whitney Scholarship Fund. The scholarship has been instrumental in supporting the educational goals of many artists.

Whether you are a seasoned glass artist or just beginning your journey, don't miss this chance to elevate your skills, showcase your work, and be part of a dynamic and supportive community. **G.A.**

Join the American Glass Guild today and connect with a vibrant glass community in Mesa. For more information, visit [www.americanglassguild.org](http://www.americanglassguild.org). See you at the conference!



© Copyright 2025 by Glass Art®. All rights reserved.

## Join Us for AGG's Annual Conference

Members of AGG are busily gearing up for their annual conference. This year's event, *Some Like it Hot*, will be held at the Mesa Arts Center, in Mesa, Arizona, and at the Delta Hotel by Marriott from May 19–25.

Several highlights of this year's conference include:

- **Judith Schaechter** will discuss her largest, most ambitious recent project, *Super/Natural*. This semi-architectural installation, also referred to as a "personal temple," includes sixty-seven panels of stained glass designed to be viewed up close.
- **Kathy Barnard** will offer a presentation of her recently completed commission, *Into the Tennessee Woods*. This work is for the Family Commons Sacred Space Chapel at St. Jude Children's Research and Cancer Hospital in Memphis, TN.
- **James Cockerill** will teach a two-day in-depth screen printing workshop in the printing studio of the Mesa Arts Center. James, who founded HALT glass in the UK, combines photography, graphic design, and print with traditional and modern stained glass techniques and materials.
- **Tyler Kimball** will demonstrate mouth-blown sheet glass in the Mesa Arts Center hotshop.
- **Scott Parsons** will join our bus tour and discuss his *La Casa* windows for the Franciscan Renewal Center windows fabricated by Derix Glasstudios.

Your Work Leaves  
Your Tools  
Live With You

**HIS  
GLASSWORKS**

2000 Riverside Dr Ste 19 Asheville NC 28804

[www.hisglassworks.com](http://www.hisglassworks.com)

The Best  
Coldworking Tools  
on the Planet

800-914-7463

Like the Great Houdini...

**FLOAT YOUR ART**

Transparent Glass???

Invisible standoffs float your glass on the wall.  
ONLY glorious colored shadows!

Houdini Mounts are simple to use, elegant,  
and economical.

[www.FloatYourArt.com](http://www.FloatYourArt.com)