



PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM TO FEATURE STUNNING GLASS EXHIBITION FEATURING WORKS BY PROMINENT AUSTRALIAN ARTISTS AND THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS

LINKS: Australian Glass and the Pacific Northwest

October 18, 2014-January 25, 2015



July 17, 2014 (Palm Springs, CA) - For more than forty years, connections between Australia and the Pacific Northwest have been forged through the relationships of artists, educational institutions, and entrepreneurs through the medium of glass. Brought together by a shared passion for glass, artists from both countries have developed long lasting and deeply influential relationships. These connections have made significant impacts on both continents forming unique “links” between Australian and American studio glass movements.

The Palm Springs Art Museum will feature an exhibition of 92 stunning glass art works created by significant Australian glass makers and their US counterparts. The exhibition, *Links: Australian Glass and the Pacific Northwest*, will introduce contemporary Australian artists to American museum audiences in a context that emphasizes the long lasting and deeply influential relationships between the artists and institutions in both countries and their impact on the studio glass movements in both countries. *Links* features the work of twenty-three Australian artists linked to each other and to the Pacific Northwest through workshops and classes, use of a common material, training and education, shared studio space, and/or production assistance.

This is the first museum exhibition in the United States dedicated to a wide spectrum of Australian studio glass, an overdue event given the excellence of the work and its prominence in important American private and public collections. The exhibition will be on view at the Palm Springs Art Museum from October 18, 2014 through January 25, 2015.



The exhibition explores an international network of influences and exchanges that began in the mid-1970s and tells two related stories about the development of Australian studio glass and its

connection with American artists and technology. The first narrative focuses on the technical and stylistic innovations in fused, cast, and cold worked glass that Australians excel in. The second section centers on blown (hot) glass that is prevalent in the Pacific Northwest.



The presentation traces the history of these exchanges and the work of the current generation of remarkable contemporary Australian glass artists who share its lineage and are achieving recognition throughout the world. They are not merely repeating age old glass-making traditions—they have re-invented them as a vehicle for new contemporary creative expression.

The exhibition includes works by Australian artists Clare Belfrage, Giles Bettison, Gabriella Bisetto, Jane Bruce, Scott Chaseling, Cobi Cockburn, Nadège Desgenétez, Mel Douglas, Ben Edols/Kathy Elliott, Tim Edwards, Brenden Scott French, Mel George, Jeremy Lepisto, Jessica Loughlin, Klaus Moje, Tom Moore, Nick Mount, Stephen Procter, Kirstie Rea, Tom Rowney, Janice Vitkovsky, and Richard Whiteley shown with works by American artists Steve Klein, Dante Marioni, Richard Marquis, and April Surgent.

Videos featuring artists working in their studios and discussing the various glass processes will play continuously in the gallery. Accompanying the exhibition is a 176-page catalog published by the Museum of Glass in association with the University of Washington Press with essays by curator Vicki Halper from Seattle; Grace Cochrane from Sydney; Margot Osborne from Adelaide; and Lani McGregor from Bullseye Glass in Portland, Oregon.

Links: *Australian Glass and the Pacific Northwest* has been organized by Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA. Sponsored by Ben B. Cheney Foundation, this project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; Australian National University-Canberra, School of Art; David Kaplan and Glenn Ostergaard; Craft Australia; Bullseye Glass Company and Robert Lehman Foundation.



The Palm Springs showing is funded in part by David Kaplan and Glenn Ostergaard, Gilbert and Thelma Schnitzer Fund, the Contemporary Art Council and its Platinum Sponsors Rebecca Benaroya and Phyllis and Gary Schahet, Gold Sponsors Marguerite and David M. Wilson, Silver Sponsors Carol Bell-Dean and Edward Dean, and Candice Connell and Barry W. Morse.

Image credits: TOP: Richard Whiteley, *Arch*, 2012, cast glass and metal, courtesy of the artist and Bullseye Gallery, Portland, Oregon; MIDDLE: Nick Mount, *Scent Bottle #060907*, 2007, blown glass, cut, polished, and assembled, collection of the artist, photo by Grant Hancock, BOTTOM: Dante Marioni, *Blue Leaf*, 2009, blown glass, collection of Museum of Glass, gift of the artist, photo by Duncan Price

The Palm Springs Art Museum is the largest cultural institution in the Coachella Valley and includes three locations in Palm Springs and Palm Desert. The flagship building is located in downtown Palm Springs and features compelling art exhibitions and a vast permanent collection, all on view in a 150,000 square foot, architecturally-significant building. The soon-to-open Architecture and Design Center will feature exhibitions and programming that explore the rich topics of architecture and design. The Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert is an 8,400 square foot, Silver LEED-certified building named The Galen that presents changing exhibitions and collections. It is surrounded by the four-acre Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden that features more than ten important sculpture works. For more information, call 760-773-1707 or visit www.psmuseum.org

NOTE TO MEDIA: High resolution of many works in this exhibition are available. Please enquire for a full list.