

A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland June 2023 Edition

We're open for business - up and down

It's been a busy time at the Guild where we have been focussing a lot of time on fitting out the downstairs workshop.

We designed and had some new workbenches and shelving built (pictured right).

In addition, we have been stocking up with all the essential tools and stationary for classes and members, and a new tool bench is now available for storage and to provide a surface for grinders.

Have you seen the new grinders? They are pretty fancy. There are photos of it inside, but check them out personally, as well as the new workshop and even the new storage shed when you are in next.

Downstairs space open

Whilst there is more work to be done, the downstairs space can be used by members working on projects.

We just ask that everyone uses a craft mat on the new workbenches. Mosaic classes will transition downstairs once new stools arrive and the tool benches are set up.

Fusing and Slumping have already held their first class downstairs. A lot of thought and planning has gone into getting us this far but we haven't forgotten our beloved upstairs workshop.

It will be getting a bit of a refresh with a new double sink in the main workshop



and a beadmaking room will be constructed in the old glass room.

Don't forget to attend our Guild bi-monthly meetings... the next one will be on Monday 10th July if you would like to hear the latest news or make suggestions on things you would like to see.

Showcase on again

A Guild subcommittee is busy planning the Guild's next showcase. We are debuting the name for the event formally known as the Glass Guild Exhibition.

It will be called the '*Creative Glass Showcase*' and will be held on the weekend of 7th and 8th October at the Mt Coot-tha Auditorium.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to assist with plan-

We're open for business! The new downstairs workshop is now available for classes, such as this recent fusing & slumping class, as well as for use for members' project work.

ning, please let me know.

Expect to hear more news about the Showcase soon.

If you haven't been in for a while, come in and say 'hi'. If you haven't taken a class for a while it might be time to look and see what's available. Why not make use of the available members' times?

We now have two first class workshops to use, so you can spread out. Just remember to check the Guild calendar to make sure there isn't a class on first.

I hope to see you all soon.

Regards, Chris

Renovation Update

All of our recent efforts have been around organising the new downstairs space to optimise its practical use.

We have had a major cleanout, and all our exhibition display materials, records, excess lead, mowers etc are safely stored in the single garage shed at the rear of our premises (photo below).

This leaves us a very usable downstairs space where we can manage our glass supplies, conduct our sales, and allocate time for members to work on their projects. This leaves the old upstairs glass room ready for conversion to a new beadmaking room.

We are in the process of organising 3-phase power for the sand-blasting equipment, and are hopeful of conducting courses in the new downstairs area as soon as possible. Watch this space!



Guild goes sustainable

As part of the Resilient Clubs Support Program, the Guild received approval to proceed with two significant sustainability projects.

The first project was the installation a rainwater tank and pump, incorporating water supply to the toilet, vanity basin, and a rear tap for garden use (see photo below).

The second project involves the replacement of all upstairs lighting with power-saving LED lights.

The projects, valued at \$9400, are provided at no cost to the Guild, through sponsorship from the Brisbane Sustainability Agency, a Brisbane City Council company dedicated to a clean, green and sustainable Brisbane.

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Creative Glass Guild
of Queensland**

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Workshop/Sales:
Saturdays, 9.00am-12.00pm

General meetings: Bi-monthly
on first Monday of the month at
7.00 pm (Notice will be emailed
to members).

Management Meetings:
Alternate months or earlier if
required

Calling all members to learn and create

It has become a tradition for our exhibition at Mt Coot-tha to showcase a group mosaic project showing work of our members.

This year, we are working towards completing and displaying the project that we started before the pandemic - a colourful display of 'glass on plexiglass' mosaic strips, hanging like a curtain, sparkling and catching the light.

The more the merrier

The more pieces the merrier in a display like this, so we encourage you all to have a go!

To get your creativity flowing, I will be holding some 'glass on glass' mosaic-making sessions with all materials, glue and substrate supplied.

There is no cost to participate in this project, and you get to keep your piece at the end of the exhibition.

Guild mosaics tutor, Catherine Conaty, is seeking your help to create something special for our October 'Creative Glass Showcase'

Each session is limited to 10 places, so please book in for your preferred session for Sunday 2nd July 1:00pm to 4:00 pm and/or Sunday 30th July 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Look for the links on my email to Guild members.

Learn and create

Not a mosaicer? That doesn't matter! This is a good opportunity to learn a little bit about the process and create a small piece, while getting to know other Guild members.

The perspex strips supplied are 29.5 x 6.5cm, and each



piece has a hole drilled at the top and bottom, so we can attach multiple strips to each other.

There are no limitations on design, and grouting your piece is optional. I look forward to seeing everyone's colourful creations!

Cheers, Catherine

Can you solve the puzzle?

Some years ago, I acquired an unusual hand-painted glass trinket box that is signed, but I did not recognise the signature, or the work.

Sometime later, I managed to find a hand mirror, also by the same maker.

Just in the last few weeks, I have found two more trinket boxes, that although a bit different in style and technique, appear to also be the same maker.

Help with search

One of these boxes has a sticker that indicates it is made in Kedron, Qld, so that could be a bit of a help in the search for the maker.

If any members recognise the pieces and can assist me in tracking down the maker, it would be greatly appreciated.

Regards, Dianne Mansall



Glass from the Heart

I would like to introduce myself as a fairly new member of the Guild. Two years ago I moved to Redcliffe from Blackall in western Queensland.

Throughout the years, I have tried my hand at many varying art genres from ceramics to acrylic painting. But my current passion is fused glass.

After attending a workshop in Tambo run by Alison Shaw, I became hooked on glass. I find my items are functional as well as decorative. All my items are unique as the glass varies with each new acquisition of the primary product.

Whole new medium

I have attended two workshops at the Guild – *Bead Making* and *Painting on Glass*. Unfortunately bead making was not for me as I have trouble seeing the flame. However, *Painting on Glass* opened up a whole new medium for me. Thank you, Deb Gallon, for introducing me to this new art form.

I have dabbled with the paints using the layering medium and created some very pleasing results. The great thing about this is if the covering is not sufficient, you can re-apply and fire again.

I love painting birds and bush scenes and my magpie picture was taken from a photo with permission from the photographer. He was amazed with the finished plate.

The examples pictured below represent a selection from my Australiana series.

Best wishes, Lorelei Kiernan



How to fix cracks

Guild member and expert lampmaker, Denis, was a recent guest at the Panel Lamp Construction class.

His mission was to demonstrate to the class one way to fix cracked glass in a lamp.

Denis used HXTAL, which is a two-part conservator's epoxy resin, used mainly in the repair of glass and china.

It's often preferred because the cured resin does not embrittle with time, and is very resistant to yellowing.

Denis also explained that HXTAL takes up to a week to cure, allowing a lot of working time.

What other methods have you tried to fix cracked glass?



Brisbane Visual Arts Community

Community Arts Expo



BVAC are planning another Pop Up Shop just in time for Christmas on 10-12 November at the Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens Auditorium.

If you would like to sell your glass creations and represent the Guild at this market, please let Katrina know by the end of June, so that we can secure you a table as soon as they become available.

These Pop-Up shops have been running at the Mt Coot-tha Auditorium since 2014.

Some BVAC member groups measure the success of the Pop-Up Shops entirely from a commercial perspective. It is very exciting to make sales, and just to know that people like your work enough to part with their hard-earned cash.

Another measure of success for the Pop-Up Shop is the external connections that groups and individuals make as a result of seeing what other people are creating and marketing.

Ignite your creative spark

The most recent BVAC newsletter also reminds member groups of how the Brisbane City Council is helping to develop a 'Creative Brisbane'.

Guild members might consider the Council's *Creative Sparks Program*, which is designed to assist artists and not-for-profit community arts and cultural organisations how to present and market their work.

Grants of up to \$10,000 per application are available for the creation and presentation of projects that will be shared with the public.

Applications for the *Creative Sparks Program* open on 6th November and close on 11th December 2023, and are open to artists from all backgrounds and career stages working across all art forms and practices.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by mid-April 2024.

Kevin's glass odyssey

After a couple of years of staying home due to Covid, some of our members are on the move again.

Kevin Grace has recently returned from a trip to the UK and Europe, where he caught up with some spectacular leadlights and mosaics.

The Window of the Three Holy Kings in Cologne Cathedral, for example, features 900 square metres of stained glass. The cathedral's oldest stained glass windows were crafted in the 13th century.

Richter's modern masterpiece

More modern in style is the cathedral's immense stained-glass window by the Cologne-based artist Gerhard Richter, completed in 2007 as a permanent replacement for 19th-century glass that was destroyed in World War II.

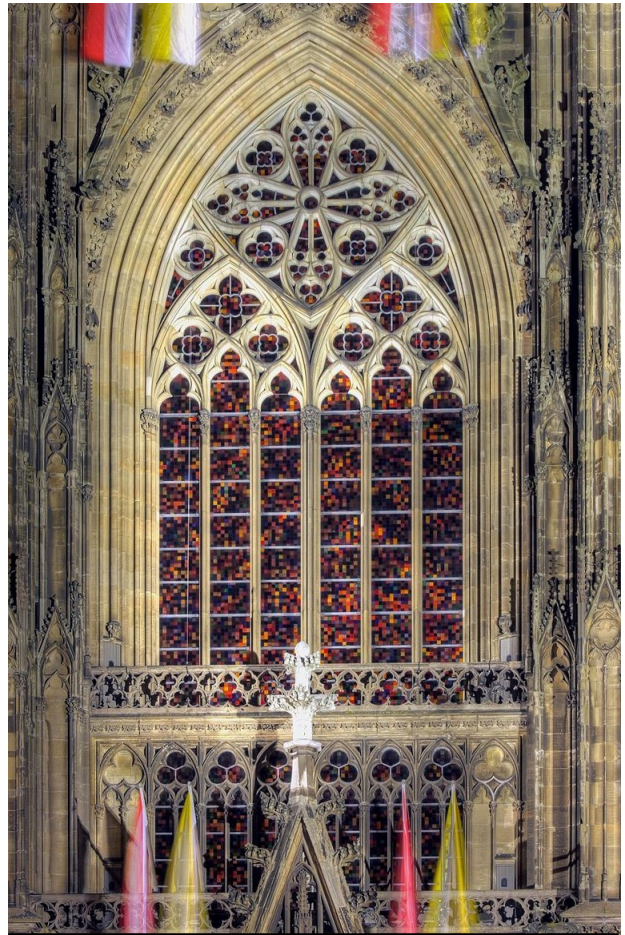
Richter's spectacular window consists of more than 11,000 hand-blown glass panels in 72 solid colours, arrayed seemingly at random within the many-mullioned window.

'The Birth of Men' mosaic

While in Cologne, Kevin sought out Otto Freundlich's impressive mosaic, entitled *'The Birth of Men'*. Created following WW1, the mosaic assumes form in order to emerge from the great turmoil of the world war. Freundlich saw himself and his mosaics as part of the tradition of the European guilds.

Nevertheless, Freundlich was not yearning for the past; rather, he sought to revive an art form that had grown rigid under the then German bourgeoisie.

The mosaic survived destruction during WW2, remaining unharmed in a farm shed. Unfortunately, Freundlich's fate was sealed. From Jewish origins, he died in a Nazi concentration camp in 1943.



Pictured (above): The magnificent Gerhard Richter window in Cologne Cathedral contains 11,000 hand-blown glass panels in 72 solid colours.

Below: German craftsmen carefully assemble the colourful panels, seemingly in a random pattern.

Below left: Otto Freundlich's impressive mosaic, *'The Birth of Men'* was produced in Germany following the turmoil of the Great War.



Kevin's glass odyssey (cont)

Back in England, Kevin's travels led him to Liverpool Cathedral, where the stained glass all dates from the 20th century.

Of interest, the designs were planned by a committee working in conjunction with the architect of the cathedral, Giles Gilbert Scott. A number of stained glass designers were involved in the activities, with the aim of forming an integrated stained glass presentation.

The cathedral also features strategically-sited coloured glass to create a subtle but striking ambience within the church's interior.

Victoria & Albert Museum

Kevin was also impressed with the stained glass collection in London's Victoria & Albert Museum, one of the largest and most comprehensive collections in the world. The Museum traces the history, design and techniques of this unique art form from the 12th to the 21st century.

The collection follows stained glass from the Medieval and Renaissance periods. Other highlights include 17th- and 18th-century painted glass, stained glass connected to the Gothic Revival and Arts & Crafts movements and works by 20th-century and contemporary artists and designers such as Patrick Reyntiens and Harry Clarke.

Holocaust Memorial leadlight

Finally, in Budapest, Hungary, Kevin visited the Dohány Street Synagogue, also known as the Great Synagogue, which seats 3,000 people.

At the back of the Synagogue is a Holocaust Memorial Garden, which features a memorial leadlight dedicated to Sir Nicholas George Winton who organised the rescue of 669 Jewish children from Nazi persecution.



Pictured (above): Coloured glass in red and blue hues contributes to the ambience of the interior of England's Liverpool Cathedral.

Below: The giant leadlight window in the Dohány Street Synagogue's Holocaust Memorial Garden in Budapest, Hungary;

Below left: Two examples of medieval glass panels on display at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London



Leadlights and azulejos shine in Europe

Ian's travels took him to Spain and Portugal, where he was enthralled by the brilliant leadlights in the Sagrada Familia cathedral and the intricate painted tiles, or azulejos, evident throughout Portugal.

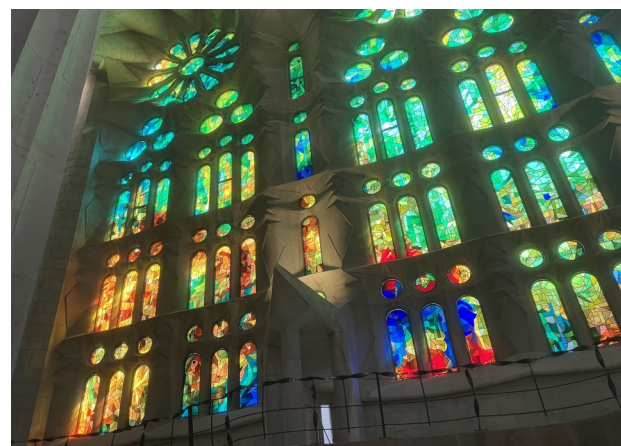
Antoni Gaudi's design masterpiece in Barcelona features windows composed of four superimposed pieces of glass, one in each of the primary colours - (yellow, cyan and magenta) - and a fourth transparent piece as a seal.

Inspired by Tiffany glass, Gaudi's towering windows present a symphony of colour as the sun's rays stream into the basilica's interior.

Portugal's azulejos

When someone mentions Portugal, a few things come to mind: port wine, seafood, surfing, and ... azulejos!

Deeply embedded in Portugal's history and culture are these beautiful, glazed ceramic tiles that decorate churches, monasteries, restaurants, bars, railway and subway stations, palaces, and just about everywhere.



Above: The windows of the Sagrada Familia are sited to capture the full impact of the sun in the morning (the blues and greens) and evening (the reds and oranges).

Left: A Portuguese church with a full display of azulejos.

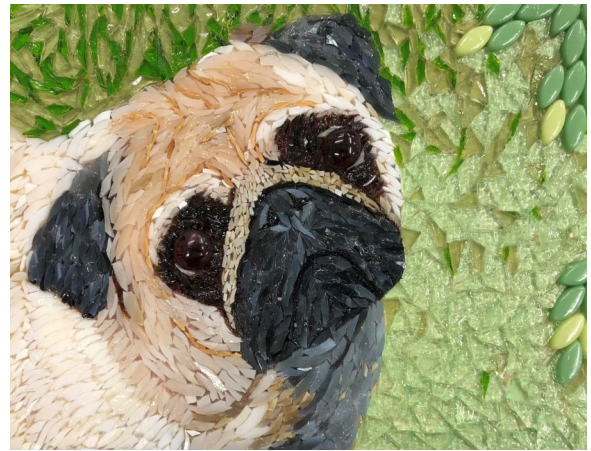
Azulejos date back to the 13th century, when the Moors invaded the land that now belongs to Spain and Portugal.

Antique *azulejos* were decorated in a simple colour palette, dominated by cobalt blues and whites, which are still popular today.

White tiles are coated with a raw glaze, then hand painted, sometimes using stencils to layer different colours and shades. The painted tiles are then subject to high heat in a kiln to produce a spectacular finished product.

Regards, Ian Dymock

It's all go at the Guild, with classes and members' projects in full swing. Pictured clockwise from right: A panel from Scott's cascading grapes copperfoiled lamp—a brilliant first attempt; Marianne's 'Pugsy' mosaic with soulful eyes; Lorraine goes nautical with her mosaic mermaid complete with paua shell hair; Chris gives the tick of approval to the Guild's new grinders; and John (J2) displays his art deco inspired leadlight panel. Nice work, everyone!





What's Up

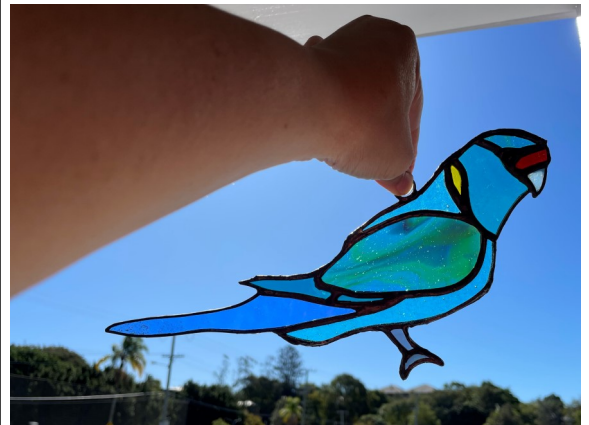
Mon 10th July: Next Members' meeting

**Group Mosaic Project: Sun 2nd July;
Sun 30th July (1.00pm-4.00pm)**

**Festival of Glass Expo, Drysdale, Victoria
Sun 27th August (10.00am-4.00pm)**

**Creative Glass Showcase (formerly Glass
Guild Exhibition): Sat 7th-Sun 8th October
Mt Coot-tha Gardens Auditorium**

**BVAC Christmas Pop-up Shop, 10th-12th
November, Mt Coot-tha Gardens**



Guild happenings (pictured clockwise from top left): Evert completes a colourful leadlight window for his home workshop; one of our slick new grinders, now ready for action; Katrina's copper-foiled Mallee Parrot, inspired by a recent trip to South Australia; six innovative beginners' fusing pieces go into the kiln; mosaic pieces from the beginners' class - a grape vine from Owen, and an exotic hummingbird from Deb.

