

A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland

September 2018 Edition

All the President's News & Views

Hi everyone,

With the annual Guild Exhibition 'done and dusted' for 2018, we can all reflect on this wonderful opportunity to showcase the work of the Guild, and especially the classes and workshops which enable the development of new skills and the promotion of our glass arts to the broader community.

Our tutors and demonstrators who spent all weekend promoting courses and demonstrating different techniques and types of glass work were kept very busy answering questions and interacting with visitors to the Exhibition – and the resulting numbers of bookings for classes were very satisfying.

Showcase opportunity

The Exhibition also provided the ideal setting to showcase the work of Guild members and offered the opportunity for some to sell their beautiful creations.

Attendees were enthusiastic in their praise of the assembled pieces - and resulting sales were brisk.

The Auditorium certainly looked magnificent with all the

different types of glass techniques and finished pieces beautifully displayed – with the 'icing on the cake' provided by the Christmas decorations so creatively assembled by the working group led by Chris Bell.



Pictured: Congratulations to Sylvia Free, who won this year's Exhibition Theme Award for 'Poetry & Song'. Sylvia's creation of a glass jar filled with glass cubes and red hearts was based on the song 'Jar of Hearts' by Christina Perri—complete with lyrics included.

While the Guild achieved a healthy profit from the weekend, this could not have been achieved without the assistance of so many during the period leading up to the Exhibition, during the weekend, and following the departure of the last visitor.

Huge thanks are extended to all who participated in the various activities, but especially to Denise Olsen who refused to be labelled 'Exhibition Coordinator', but who so capably carried out that role.

Review undertaken

A full review of the Exhibition was undertaken after the General Meeting on 3rd September, with those present identifying and discussing the strengths and weaknesses of the Exhibition, as well as the threats and opportunities.

In planning for the 2019 Exhibition, the challenge now is to build on the strengths, explore the opportunities, address the weaknesses, and be conscious of the threats.

It is hoped that 2019 will bring success with our application for a Brisbane City Council 'Building Stronger Communities' grant to weatherproof our building by replacing the roof, gutters and downpipes.

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To further cool our premises, we will seek to extract heat with the installation of two whirlybirds on the roof, replace insulation in the ceiling cavity, and install awnings over selected windows and doors.

While such work would create some disturbance, the ultimate benefits would greatly outweigh the inconvenience – so fingers crossed for a successful outcome.

Eye-catching wall

In the meantime, work is progressing, under the leadership of Catherine Conaty, with the creation of the many leaves and branches that will be attached to the Guild side of the concrete wall beside the driveway.

This will become part of an eye-catching public art installation.

If the interest generated by the leaves on display at our recent Exhibition is any guide, the finished mosaic will attract even more attention.

Best wishes, Jan

Roll up for Christmas bibs & bobs

The Guild is running two one-day Fused Glass Christmas Decorations courses for beginners, on Sun 25th November and Sat 1st December (9:30am to 3:30 pm).

Our tutor, Chris Bell, will provide a number of Christmas-themed designs to work on, or you can bring your own. Instruction will be given to those who have not cut glass before. Expect to make about 8 to 10 decorations which, after firing, you will take home

along with the 'bibs and bobs' to decorate them.

No experience is necessary, and the cost includes glass cutting instruction, small glass pack, firing fees, adhesives, ribbons and decorations to finish at home. Additional glass is available to purchase.

Each course requires a minimum of 6 people and a maximum of 8. They fill up fast, so log onto the Creative Glass Guild site, and book in today.



Step up for 'fusers and slumpers'

An Intermediate Fusing and Slumping course has been created to allow those who are ready to move on from being a beginner 'fuser and slumper' into the next level.

Participants can bring their own designs and ideas along and create anything they like.

Katrina Jackson is offering Wednesday classes from 9.30am to 1.30pm in 3-week blocks starting in October. Cost is \$100 per block. Participants will pay for their own glass and kiln use, as each project will be unique and have its own set of requirements.

If you are keen to get creating with us, book in at <http://creativeglassguild.com.au/classes/fusing-and-slumping/want-to-enrol-in-fusing-and-slumping-course/>.

If you are unable to make it this time but are keen to be kept up to date on similar courses please let us know.

**Published by the
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of Queensland**

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Website:
www.creativeglassguild.com.au

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

Oh, what a lovely Exhibition

The contribution by a core of Guild volunteers was the driving force behind a successful 2018 Glass Guild Exhibition.

Under the direction of Secretary Denise Olsen – who stepped into the breach and didn't stop running – various members undertook a myriad of tasks associated with planning, promoting, setting up, running and dismantling the event.

Revenue from door takings, raffles and commissions provided a welcome boost to the Guild's funds, to help us keep ticking along for another year.

Review to improve

A recent post-event review by members has revealed a number of pros and cons, looking at what went well, identifying what needs further attention, and to plan ahead. Importantly, we identified the need to better document our activities to assist and guide others in the future.

Congratulations to our prize winners, Sylvia Free (Theme Award—Poetry & Song) and Ken Ede (People's Choice Award).



With a 40th birthday to be celebrated in 2019, it's a great opportunity for us to 'go overboard' in showcasing the work and culture of the Guild, and to look back on four decades of achievement.

Pictured (above): Ken Ede took out the People's Choice Award for his striking copperfoil/leadlight panel entitled 'Lady in Blue'.

Below: A selection of the outstanding range of items submitted for display and sale by Guild members at the 2018 Exhibition.





Pictured at the 2018 Exhibition (clockwise from above):
1. Chief organiser Denise helps Grahame sort out the paperwork
2. Ian, Evert and Grahame demonstrate leadlighting
3. Catherine displays her 'She's like a rainbow' mosaic
4. The Sunday pack-up team take a well-earned rest
5. Irene does her bead-making demo thing
6. Catja, Diane and Christine take a break in proceedings
7. Ken's famous copperfoil ladies strike a pose



Guild wall to blossom with life and colour

The dividing wall between the Guild and the Broncos Club will take on a luxuriant look in the near future when Guild members complete a group mosaic mural with a difference!

Following a plan drawn up by Mosaics Tutor, Catherine Conaty, Guild members have been attending a series of workshops to create a variety of leaves and branches for a mural that will be blossoming with life and colour.

Making leaves and branches

As seen on display at our annual Exhibition, the mosaic leaves for our tree branch mural are looking fantastic, and members will soon be creating some spectacular branches.

We are inviting as many Guild members as possible to participate in this project, which is already looking quite striking. No mosaic experience is necessary, and all materials are provided.

The next leaf and branch-making workshop will be held on Sunday 21st October, 9:30am to 12:30pm. Feel free to bring a plate of morning tea to share.

No need to book

There will be further workshops later in the year for surface preparation, installation and grouting of the mural, with dates to be advised.

So no mosaic experience is required, and there is no need to book in - just come along.

Catherine Conaty



Pictured (clockwise from top):

- 1. The dividing wall where the leaves and branches mural will feature*
- 2. Adhesive is applied to a leaf*
- 3. One of the many designs of leaves being prepared for the activity*
- 4. Lenore Is one of the team of Guild members who are preparing leaves and branches for the mural.*



Christine finds a diamond in the rough

I recently ducked into Southwark Cathedral to escape the rain in London and was very pleasantly surprised by the Diamond Jubilee window by Icelandic artist, Leifur Breidfjord.

It was very modern in comparison to the Cathedral's other leadlight windows, but simply beautiful.

This most recent piece of glasswork (pictured at right) can be found next to the Rider Window in the South Wall of the retrochoir. The spectacular panel was the winning design for a window to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Southward Cathedral, which was previously known as the Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overie, stands at the oldest crossing point of the River Thames, at what was for many centuries the only entrance to the City of London.



The Diamond Jubilee window features an abstract design showing 'a celebration of life, a vibrant sparkling creation that inspires joy, happiness and optimism for the future'

It's well worth a visit if going past.

Christine Bell

Pictured: This window in London's Southwark Cathedral was a winning abstract design by Icelandic glass artist, Leifur Breidfjord, who created the window to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The Cathedral also features another famous window—'Christ in Majesty'. Set across three windows, the beautiful artwork was created in 1948 by the renowned Gothic revivalist architect, Sir Ninian Comper.

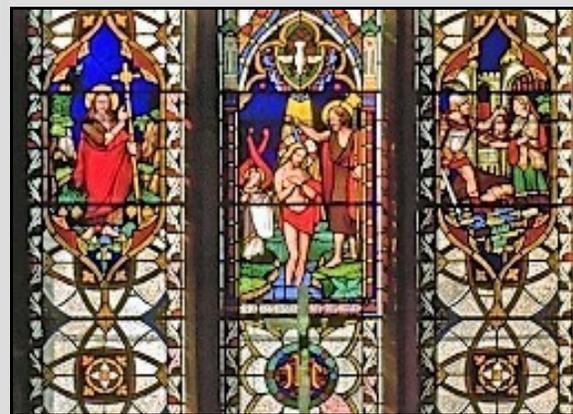
Mystery window stakes claim to history

Is this the oldest stained glass window in Australia?

It resides in St John the Baptist Church in Buckland, Tasmania, and it has been claimed that the church's impressive East Window dates from the fourteenth century.

Some authorities have claimed that the window was originally designed for Battle Abbey in England, a church which dates from 1094.

Legend has it that William the Conqueror built the Abbey where the English King Harold had fallen in battle, and it is possible that



the window may have found its way out to Australia after the Abbey was demolished.

The mystery of the window probably started because it was claimed that the Reverend F. H. Cox brought it to Australia when he emigrated from Sussex in 1846.

More recent stories dispute the romantic versions, and claim - with some likely accuracy - that the window was actually created in London by an Irish-born artist, Michael O'Connor, who probably made the window in 1848.

The romantic stories are so much more interesting.

International flair for Glass Festival

Australia's pre-eminent celebration of all things glass - the annual Festival of Glass held in Drysdale, Victoria - will feature three international Artists-in-Residence at its 2019 event.

Internationally renowned Venetian master glass blower Davide Penso and Canadians Karina Geuvin and Cedric Ginart will light up their torches at the 'Twilight Flames' workshop to blow and sculpt pieces of spectacular glass art.

Davide will also give personalised guidance to students at 'The Jewellery Lab', four days of



Pictured (above): Guest Murano artist Davide Penso will present this unique glass seaweed sculpture as the major prize at the 2019 Glass Festival raffle.

Below: Glass goblet-makers extraordinaire Karina Geuvin and Cedric Ginart will be lighting up their torches at Twilight Flames workshop



intense experimentation and creativity with glass jewellery. Davide lives and works on the island of Murano (Venice, Italy), which has been famed for centuries for its glass art. One of his larger elegant blown glass sculptures features permanently on Murano, and one of his unique and highly collectable seaweed sculptures will be the major prize in the Festival raffle.

Glass goblet makers

In their first visit to Australia, Karina and Cedric are glass goblet makers extraordinaire and

have shared how they make their glass goblets internationally through teaching and performance.

Karina perfected her glass skills at the Montreal glass school, Espace Verre, while Cedric's path was quite different, starting with scientific glassblowing, and evolving into artistic pursuits.

Established in 2011, the Festival of Glass celebrates the beauty and versatility of glass in art, craft and industry, and promotes collaboration between people who work with glass.



Unique in Australia, the Festival joins a handful of similar events worldwide.

Why not head down to the beautiful Bellarine Peninsula in Victoria next February, and join in the fun!



I recently participated in Dale Keating's *Fused Glass Lilies* Webinar hosted by Glass Patterns Quarterly in America. I was one of 27 participants, and the only one from outside the United States and Canada.

The tutorial stepped us through how to create these realistic fused glass lilies. The process is very detail heavy and requires at least 5 firings to create the final piece.

Many skills are required: glass cutting, accurate powder frit application, using fibre paper for a shaping slump, fancy kiln furniture placement to form the flower, glass drilling to mount the piece, and soldering to create the stamens.

To be honest, I was overwhelmed by the process, and would find it difficult to make these lilies without having a kiln at home. But the process itself was very interesting and inspiring, and the techniques can be applied to other projects.

It was great to have a live feed direct to the glass artist, and Dale is very well known amongst the glass fusing community. The webinar process itself was quick, easy and efficient to set up.

I'm looking forward to my next webinar with Lisa Vogt on *Fusing with Frit*.

Let me know if you would like any more information, or visit www.GlassPatterns.com to check out other webinars that might interest you.

Katrina Jackson



The Creative Glass Guild will once again be participating in the Brisbane Visual Arts Community (BVAC) Pop Up Shop on the weekend of 8th and 9th of December.

The event will be held at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium (the same venue as our own Exhibition).

Come along and support our crowd, and get some great unique gifts just in time for Christmas.

This year's shop will feature both 3D work and textiles, and new to this forum will be paintings and printmakers.

Dates are:

Sat 8th December. 9am to 4pm

Sun 9th December. 10am to 3pm

Quota Craft & Gift Fair 13th & 14th October

Quota International of Carindale has advised that their Annual Craft and Gift Fair will be held on 13th & 14th October at Chandler's Sleeman Sports Complex.

While we are not able to participate this year (as everyone already has commitments that weekend) if you love your craft and want to get in early for Christmas gifts, or pick up unique pieces for yourself, head out to Chandler to provide your support to our fellow local crafters.

On offer will be a huge variety of homewares, artwork, clothing, trinkets, and demonstrations from local artisans set to inspire you.

Visit Quota Carindale on Facebook for more details.

Vicki reveals 'glassy wonders'

Having just returned from a fabulous seven week overseas trip, I thought I would share just a few of the 'glassy wonders' I happened upon unexpectedly. Goodness knows what I would have found if I had done some research!

The first wonder which stopped me in my tracks was a stained glass window made in 1923 by the foremost female artist in the Tiffany Studios, Agnes Northrop, which resides in the New York Metropolitan Museum.

No painted oxides were used in this piece, rather details were added solely using techniques such as the inclusion of glass flakes, wrinkling the glass while molten and superimposing layers of colour to add depth.

After a chaotic New York cab ride to Brooklyn, it was a surprise to see a gorgeous 24 foot by 9 foot stained glass mural residing in the Cruise Terminal, which accommodates ocean-going cruise ships, including Queen Mary 2.

It was made in 1963 by Bernard



Seaman (yes, appropriate), and entitled 'The Brooklyn Working Waterfront Mural' to honour the people who made Brooklyn's port a vital part of the US economy.

The next glassy delight was a two piece life-sized period costume with gilded stars. This piece and its partner sit at either entrance to the theatre on the recently refurbished Cunard Queen Mary 2 cruise liner.

Expecting that the Victoria and Albert Museum in London would be a trip highlight, the entrance

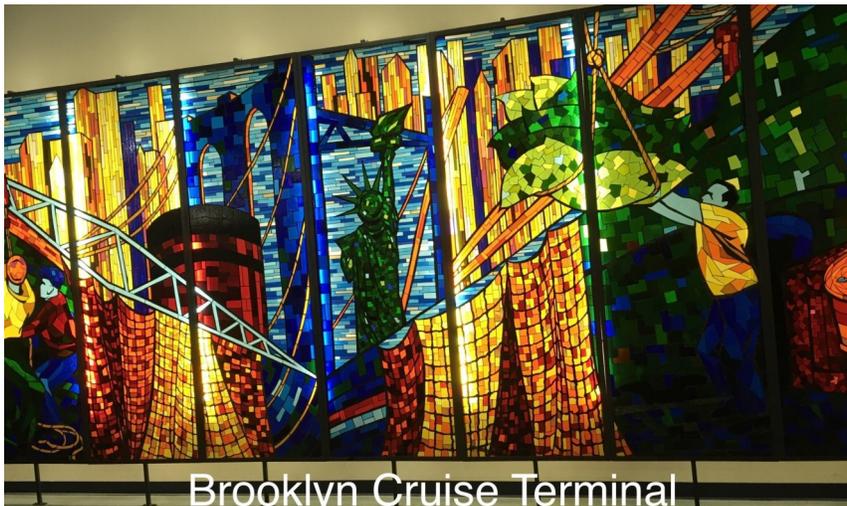
foyer of the V & A did not disappoint with a flamboyant Rotunda Chandelier by American glass artist, Dale Chihuly.

Installed in 1999 and enlarged in 2001 to better fill its space, the piece is a wonder of individually blown glass shapes and quite a challenge to clean. Before opening time, a technician on a raised platform cleans each element with an anti-static wand, taking several days to complete the job.

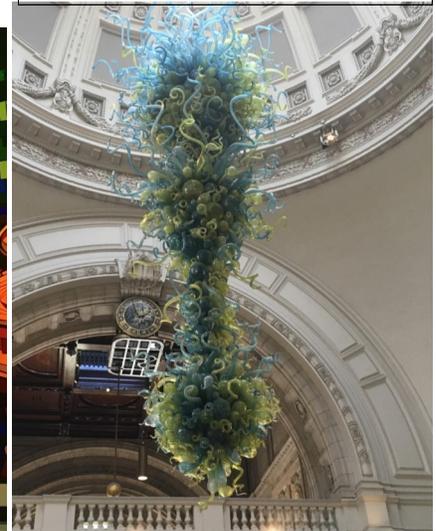
Vicki Beldan



Pictured (above): A lifesize glass period costume on Queen Mary 2; Below: Dale Chihuly's spectacular Rotunda Chandelier in London Below left: The Brooklyn Working Waterfront Mural, NY Top: Tiffany Studio's Agnes Northrop created this superb window in 1923



Brooklyn Cruise Terminal



Welcome aboard the Glass Barge

The experience and wonders of live glass-making have been brought to life for thousands of New York State residents recently, following a four month tour by the Glass Barge.

The Glass Barge, a modern-day floating glassblowing studio, is celebrating 150 years of glassmaking in Corning, N.Y. by retracing the journey of the Brooklyn Flint Glass Company, which relocated from Brooklyn to Corning in 1868.

Glass artist Eric Meek, one of the artisans travelling on the Glass Barge, said people get captivated when he explains how the ancient art of making glass remains relevant.

“We take a simple, humble material, shape it with techniques and ideas from creative minds, and make objects we use every day,” said Mr. Meek, who has been blowing glass for 25 years.

“We talk about the value of the

process of making something by hand, which is mysterious to people today.

“When onlookers watch something being made by highly skilled craftsmen, it helps them form a deeper appreciation of their world,” he said.

Can you imagine a similar barge floating down the Brisbane River and sharing the wonders of glass with the local community?

Perhaps a project to consider for our 40th year celebrations next year...or is that a barge too far?



Pictured (left): The Glass Barge, a modern day floating glassblowing studio, has retraced the steps of the journey in 1868 by the Brooklyn Flint Glass Company from Brooklyn NY to the city of Corning in New York State. The barge will travel along the Hudson River and the Erie Canal, stopping at various waterfront communities to share the ancient art of making glass.

Below: Glass artist Eric Meek demonstrates the art of glassblowing, taking a simple material, shaping it with age-old techniques, and making everyday objects.

Barges laden with furnaces, pots, blowpipes and molds traveled along the Hudson River and through the Erie Canal in 1868 to move Corning Glass Works from Brooklyn to Corning, N.Y.

Retracing a journey

The Glass Barge is retracing that journey, launching from Brooklyn Bridge Park — a stone’s throw from the original Brooklyn Flint Glass Company (now Corning Inc.) — and stopping at dozens of waterfront communities to give free glass-making demonstrations and share its many wonders.



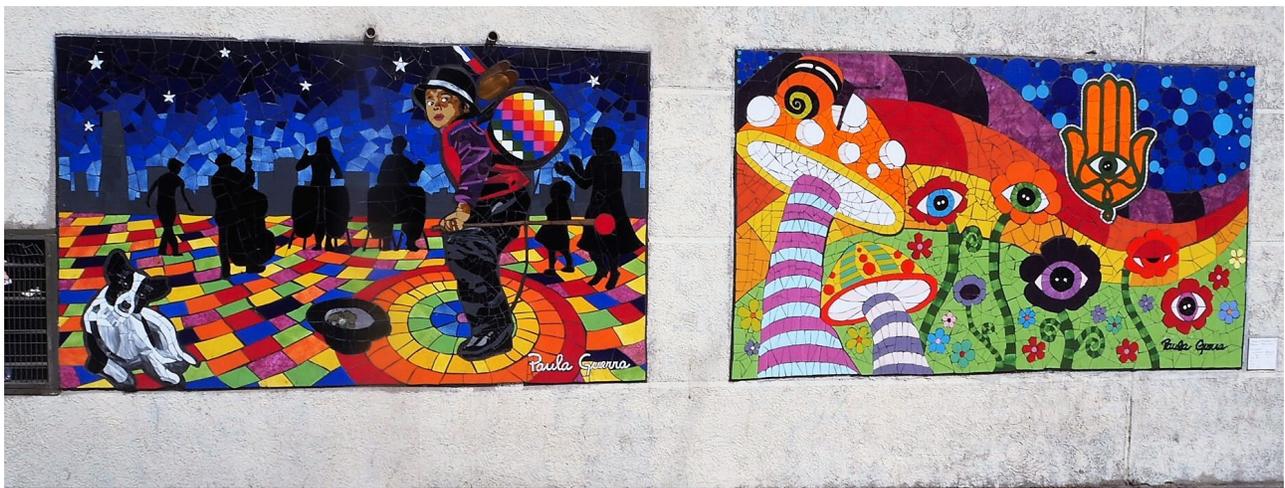
Around the Guild

As usual, the Guild has been a hive of creative activity, with workshops, classes and socialising keeping members and students busy.

These pictures are a snapshot of what's been going down recently (from right, clockwise):

1. Mosaic student Marilyn displays her splendid recreation of her 'Queenslander' house.
2. Mandy chose her shihtzu/maltese terrier as a model for her mosaic.
3. Robert's 'La Pinsa' beginner's mosaic will adorn his new Paddington pizza restaurant.
4. Charlotte's mosaic sun takes shape, almost ready for grouting.
5. Kath and Alan produced these attractive beginners' leadlight panels.
6. Leaves, leaves and more leaves—for the mosaic wall mural
7. Ken recreates a spectacular dragonfly window panel.





Street mosaics:
Que idea
esplendida!

Christine Bell's current round-the-world jaunt has most recently taken her to Chile, where she has discovered these colourful mosaics on the side of an apartment building in the Bellavista Barrio district of Chile's capital, Santiago.

This area is known as Santiago's Bohemian Quarter which features an abundance of street art.

Shop and building owners in the district commission artists to create paintings and mosaics to promote local tourism and put a smile on the dial of city-dwellers.

Pictured immediate right is a mosaic creation by Jorge Campos, better known as 'Pixel', a Chilean artist who is taking mosaic street art to a whole new level by exploring the intersection of art and technology.

