

PRESS RELEASE

22 AUGUST 2008

GLASS AWARD WINNERS FOR 2008 ANNOUNCED

Hundreds of guests celebrated with this year's glass award winners at the opening of the British Glass Biennale exhibition which took place at the Ruskin Glass Centre in Amblecote, Stourbridge, West Midlands on Thursday 21 August.

Tracy Nicholls was blown away when the jurors announced that she was the winner of the British Glass Biennale Award for her triptych – Orphica I, II and III. Her piece was judged by the Biennale jury to reflect the highest degree of creative achievement in contemporary British glass, and to be the 'best in show'.

Will Farmer, Director of Fieldings Auctioneers and chair of the British Glass Biennale jury said "The show is phenomenally strong and the decision, particularly when we narrowed it down to a shortlist of five was really tough. But all of the jury were unanimous about the winning entry. There's something very mysterious about the piece which as a triptych has amazing impact. It's strong technically, shows real quality craftsmanship and is beautifully manufactured. We all loved it".

The Glass Sellers Award went to Bob Crooks for Vertical Vase and Timothy Boswell received the Glass Sellers Student Award for Fiesta 1. Both winners were selected by the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers who were looking for originality and talent in the use of glass as a medium of artistic expression.

Professor John Whiteman, chairman of the trustees of the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers Charity said "We chose Bob Crooks piece from a very strong field because it has a lyrical fluidity which defines a very individual colour palette. The colours have a very striking purity, translucence and transparency. The piece also has very fine, opaque swirling and trailing. In production this master glassmaker has capitalised on the way the piece distorts as a result of temperature changes in the glass making process. The combination of shape, colour range and translucence are its real strengths.

British Glass Biennale
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Timothy Boswell's piece won the students prize because of the palette of different types of glass, raw materials and techniques it contains such as tubing from neon signs, hollow canes, stringers and rods fused together to produce plaque motifs.

Our runner up prize for the Glass Sellers Award went to James Lethbridge for his piece Serpentine Chandelier, this and Coalescence ii, also in the exhibition, demonstrate his ability over a range of different magnitudes. Steven Whitehill was our runner up for the Glass Sellers Student Award, his piece "untitled" was chosen because of its simplicity, good use of materials, calmness and elegance – in complete contrast to Timothy Boswell's".

The prize money for all three awards totalled £14,000.

British Glass Biennale Award £8,000

Glass Sellers Award £5,000

Glass Sellers Student Award £1,000

The British Glass Biennale is a selling show with over 130 pieces of work ranging from the small scale to large installations and prices from £200 - £35,000 for sale to collectors and buyers.

The exhibition is open daily from 22 August to 28 September at the Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge; the heart of the historic glass industry in the UK.

ENDS

For further information please contact:

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BRITISH GLASS BIENNALE IMAGE BANK

Images of the artist's work for the 2008 Biennale are available via the IFG website on its image bank: Go to: www.ifg.org.uk/imagebank.html Then click on BIENNALE IMAGES.

Editor's notes:

1. British Glass Biennale, August 22 - September 28

On show at the Ruskin Glass Centre, Wollaston Road, Amblecote, Stourbridge DY8 4HF

Open every day: 10.00am – 5.00pm

ENTRY TO THE EXHIBITION IS FREE

Jury panel members for the 2008 British Glass Biennale are: Director of Fieldings Auctioneers, Will Farmer; Director of Craftspace Touring, Deirdre Figueiredo; Editor of Art & Architecture, Jeremy Hunt; Curator of Applied Art at the Ulster Museum, Kim Mawhinney and Glass Artist, Angela Thwaites.

A highly desirable, full colour hard back catalogue accompanies the British Glass Biennale exhibition. The catalogue features all exhibiting artists work and essays from the jury panel. The catalogue retails at £28 and is available from the Ruskin Glass Centre, all participating indoor venues throughout the International Festival of Glass and specialist bookshops and galleries. It is free to the press.

2. People's Prize

Visitors to the British Glass Biennale exhibition are invited to vote for their favourite piece. The artist with the most votes will win the People's Prize which will be announced towards the close of the exhibition.

The winner will receive professional support and promotional materials donated by Craftsman *craft&design* Magazine and Warm Glass.

SPONSORS/ SUPPORTERS:

Ruskin Mill Educational Trust
Advantage West Midlands
Arts Council England
Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers
Craftsman *craft&design* Magazine

BRITISH GLASS BIENNALE ARTISTS 2008

* indicates student entry for the Student Glass Sellers Award

Karen Akester	Jason Morris*
Stuart Akroyd	Simon Moss
Vic Bamforth	Keiko Mukaide
Grietje Beyaert*	Tracy Nicholls
Laura Birdsall	Amanda Notarianni
Timothy George Boswell*	Kevin Petrie
Keith Brocklehurst	Anthony Pollock
Karen Browning	David Reekie
Sean Campbell	Marie Retpen
Sabrina Cant	Stephen Reveley*
Keeryong Choi	Bruno Romanelli
Katharine Coleman	
Bob Crooks	David Kaplan &
Vanessa Cutler	Annica Sandström
Shelley Doolan*	Anthony Scala
Sally Dunnett	Lesli Sharples*
Matthew Durran	Robyn Smith
Simon Eccles	Ruth Spaak
Rachel Mary Elliott	Andrea Spencer
Fiaz Elson	Jude Stoll
Sally Fawkes	Abigail Stradling*
Carrie Fertig	Sabina Stumberger
Ray Flavell	Nancy Sutcliffe
David Flower	Ayako Tani*
Stephen Gillies &	Jessica Townsend
Kate Jones	Margareth Troli
Karl Harron	Hélène Uffren
Daniel Haut	Andrea Walsh
Kate Henderson	Frans Wesselman
Clare Henshaw	Richard William Wheeler
Charlotte Hughes-Martin	Steven Whitehill*
Catherine Hough	Angharad Whitfield
Max Jacquard	Kathryn Wightman
Angela Jarman	Marianne Wilde
June Kingsbury	Rachael Woodman
Hannah Kippax	Marie Worre Hastrup Holm
Peter Layton	Jeff Zimmer
Sharon Leahy-Clark	
James Lethbridge	
Tanwen Llewelyn	
Charlie Macpherson	
Allister Malcolm	
Joanna Manousis*	
Gayle Matthias	
Meg McGregor*	

