



NEWS RELEASE

September 21, 2007

Contact: Sara Stacy, 419-254-5771 x 7301
[sstacy@toledomuseum.org](mailto:ss Stacy@toledomuseum.org)

Contact: Jordan Rundgren, 419-254-5771 x 7408
jrundgren@toledomuseum.org

Exhibition of Contemporary Glass Jewelry Debuts at Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion

**60 international artists explore concepts
and techniques in *GlassWear: Glass in Contemporary Jewelry*
November 9, 2007–January 31, 2008**

Toledo, Ohio—*GlassWear*, a major exhibition of more than 130 works of contemporary art celebrating the union of glass and jewelry, debuts in the Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion on November 9, 2007 and will remain on view through January 31, 2008. These exciting and highly innovative creations convey the richness of glass as a medium for jewelry and confirm the vitality of art jewelry-making worldwide. Among the 60 included artists are Linda MacNeil and Robert Ebendorf (United States), Giampaolo Babetto and Giorgio Vigna (Italy), Otto Künzli and Karl Fritsch (Germany), Mieke Groot and Ruudt Peters (The Netherlands), and Vaclav Cigler and Marketa Silena (Czech Republic).

A spirit of exploration and nonconformity pervades the jewelry in *GlassWear*. In some works, novelty results from the use of new types of glass—borosilicates for thin, yet strong compositional elements and dichroic and iridescent glass for intense color effects. In other works, the artists achieve innovative results by applying traditional glassworking processes in unexpected ways.

GlassWear: Glass in Contemporary Jewelry is organized and circulated by the Museum of Arts & Design, New York, and the Schmuckmuseum Pforzheim, Germany. Following its premiere in Toledo, the exhibition will travel to the Schmuckmuseum (Jewelry Museum) Pforzheim, March 14 through May 25, 2008. *GlassWear* will then travel to the Museum of Arts & Design in 2009.

Ranging in style from lavish ornamentation to minimalism and from biting social commentary to the spirituality of pure light and color, the works in *GlassWear* explore the most recent chapter in the development of contemporary jewelry making and employ advanced processes and intense color effects to create groundbreaking glass forms. “The works selected for *GlassWear* are sophisticated interpretations of a medium that is thousands of years old but continues to surprise in many new guises,” said Toledo Museum of Art curator of glass, Dr. Jutta-Annette Page.

The exhibition features established and emerging artists “who explore the potential of glass in jewelry through their provocative concepts and their mastery of techniques and materials,” said Ursula Ilse-Neuman, curator of jewelry for the Museum of Arts & Design and curator of *GlassWear*. “Time and again, they confirm that an object’s worth owes more to its form and ideas, than to the preciousness of its materials.”

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

The exhibition primarily includes works by jewelers who use glass as a featured material. The various roles that glass plays in each artist’s creation are organized into five distinct areas within the exhibition.

Recycled Glass

Remarkable new creations draw their primary inspiration from glass fragments or used glass objects. While some artists bring together fragments and shards to form abstract configurations, others give new life to antique glass or transform industrial products into contemporary glass jewelry. Artists such as Robert Ebendorf and Mieke Groot often incorporate discarded glass or objects from flea markets into their jewelry in order to evoke a personal memory from the viewer.

Glass as Chameleon

Glass has the ability to impersonate a variety of substances and materials, including gemstones, flowers, plants, and even liquids. Linda MacNeil’s unique jewelry often mimics the look of gemstones. In her necklace *Elements* (2005), MacNeil uses clear, polished glass “gemstones” to draw the viewer’s attention, while traditional diamonds serve a visually supporting role.

Glass as Surface and Structure

These works of art employ glass as the main compositional element that transforms light and color into a tangible ingredient of the object. Jeweler and American artist Thomas Gentile is known for using nontraditional materials in his jewelry, including industrial glass, plywood, crushed pyrite, and eggshell. In his minimalist work *Pin* (2007), Gentile combines yellow enameled industrial glass embedded in light maple wood, melding geometric form and surface treatment.

Glass as Symbol and Metaphor

Descriptors of glass are often identical to those applied to people and personalities: *transparent, flashy, molded, polished, and even fractured*. Glass also possesses a paradoxical combination of fragility, making it a useful metaphor for artists commenting on structure and society. In *The Treasure of Memory* (2000), American-born artist Michael Petry explores a new perspective on a simple beaded necklace by creating a 50-foot strand of beach-ball-sized beads that challenges the viewer to see jewelry for all it can be.

Glass as Glass

GlassWear also addresses traditional uses of glass in jewelry, as well as the medium's inherent properties—refracted and reflected light, color, and transparency. Drawing from his country's long tradition in glassworking, Italian artist Giorgio Vigna created his blown *Gorgoglio* necklace (2002) at the renowned Venini glasshouse on the island of Murano. The necklace's multitude of transparent blue glass bubbles produce light refractions and reflections that challenge the wearer to match the ornament's vitality.

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

The exhibition is accompanied by the fully illustrated color catalogue, *GlassWear: Glass in Contemporary Jewelry* with contributions by Ursula Ilse-Neuman, Cornelia Holzach, and Jutta-Annette Page. The large-format, hardbound catalogue is in production. Pre-orders can be made by calling the Museum Store at 419-254-5766.

EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAMS

All programs are at the Glass Pavilion and are free unless otherwise noted.

Friday, November 9

Hands-on Activity Make a Zero Karat Necklace | 7–9 P.M.

Take inspiration from artist Pierre Cavalan and transform common objects into something precious, using glass and other media.

Friday, November 16

Meet the Artist Robin Schultes | 7–9 P.M.

Discover how TMA glass art instructor Robin Schultes uses a small flame to create vibrant, whimsical beads, bracelets, and pendants.

Demonstration Flameworking | Beadmaking

Saturday, December 1 | 1 P.M.

Sunday, December 2 | 1 P.M.

Wednesday, December 26 | 11 A.M.

Thursday, December 27 | 11 A.M.

Friday, December 28 | 11 A.M.

Flameworking may happen on a smaller scale than glassblowing, but it's just as hot! At these demos, witness what can be done with a torch. Later, try your hand at one of the drop-in flameworking sessions that follow.

Drop-in Sessions Create a Glass Ornament

Saturday, December 1 | 2 & 3 P.M.

Sunday, December 2 | 2, 3, & 4 P.M.

Taking a cue from Giorgio Vigna's necklace of glass "bubbles," join our drop-in sessions and create your own spherical souvenir with a flameworking torch. Adults and accompanied children age 14 and older are welcome. Tickets are available at the Glass Pavilion Visitor Services desk only on the day of the event and on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission is \$7 for members and \$10 for nonmembers.

Saturday, December 15

Hands-on Activity Make a Brooch | 1–3 P.M.

Create a brooch inspired by Ramon Puig Cuyas's work. Using glass, wood, paper, and plastic, transform ordinary materials into extraordinary jewelry.

Drop-in Sessions Create a Glass Bead Pendant

Wednesday, December 26 | 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 P.M.

Thursday, December 27 | 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 P.M.

Friday, December 28 | 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 P.M.

Conquer the challenges of working with glass to create wearable art. Experiment with a torch to create beautiful, basic beads for a pendant. Adults and accompanied children age 14 and older are welcome. Tickets are available at the Glass Pavilion Visitor Services desk only on the day of the event and on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission is \$7 for members and \$10 for nonmembers.

Friday, January 11

Meet the Artist Regina Jankowski | 7–9 P.M.

Like many of the artists represented in GlassWear, Regina has a jewelry-making background and is new to working with glass. Discover Regina's take on creating jewelry from a variety of media.

Sunday, January 20

Workshop Create a Glass Bead Bracelet | 2–4 P.M.

Discover the simplicity of basic beadmaking in this free workshop and learn techniques employed by artists represented in GlassWear. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis, so make your free reservation early by calling 419-254-5771, ext 7494.

PUBLIC TOURS

GlassWear is free to the public and is on view in TMA’s Glass Pavilion. Free Docent-led tours of the exhibition are scheduled as follows:

Fri, November 9 | 6:30 & 7:30 P.M.
Sat, November 10 | 2 P.M.
Sun, November 11 | 2 & 3 P.M.
Fri, November 16 | 6:30 & 7:30 P.M.
Sat, November 17 | 2 P.M.
Sun, November 18 | 2 & 3 P.M.
Fri, November 23 | 2:30 & 6:30 P.M.
Fri, November 30 | 6:30 & 7:30 P.M.
Sat, December 1 | 2 P.M.
Sun, December 2 | 2 & 3 P.M.
Fri, December 14 | 6:30 & 7:30 P.M.
Sat, December 15 | 2 P.M.
Sun, December 16 | 2 & 3 P.M.
Wed, December 26 | 2:30 P.M.
Thurs, December 27 | 2:30 P.M.
Fri, December 28 | 3:30 P.M.
Fri, January 11 | 6:30 & 7:30 P.M.
Sat, January 12 | 2 P.M.
Sun, January 13 | 2 & 3 P.M.
Fri, January 18 | 6:30 & 7:30 P.M.
Sat, January 19 | 2 P.M.
Sun, January 20 | 2 & 3 P.M.
Fri, January 25 | 6:30 & 7:30 P.M.

Schedule is subject to change. All tours meet in the Glass Pavilion. For additional dates, please visit www.toledomuseum.org.

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DIGITAL IMAGES AVAILABLE AT:

http://www.toledomuseum.org/Newsroom_ImageOrder.htm

The mission of the Toledo Museum of Art is based upon the belief in the power of art to ignite the imagination, stimulate thought, and provide enjoyment. Through our collection and programs, we strive to integrate art into the lives of people.

The Toledo Museum of Art is a nonprofit arts institution funded through individual donations, foundation grants, corporate sponsorships, and investments. The Ohio Arts Council helps fund programs at the Toledo Museum of Art

through a sustainable grant program that encourages economic growth, educational excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

Admission to the Museum is free. The Museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 10 A.M.–4 P.M.; Friday, 10 A.M.–10 P.M.; Sunday, 11 A.M.–5 P.M.; but closed Mondays and major holidays. Friday evening hours are made possible by Fifth Third Bank.

The Museum is located at 2445 Monroe Street at Scottwood Avenue, just west of the downtown business district and one block off I-75 with exit designations posted. For general information, visitors can call 419-255-8000 or 800-644-6862, or visit www.toledomuseum.org