



PITTSBURGH STUDIO GLASS AT BNY MELLON CENTER

PITTSBURGH, PA – April 26, 2012 — This year marks the 50th anniversary of the development of studio art glass in America. In recognition of this milestone, and the many talented nationally and internationally recognized artists working with glass, the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass (AACG) has organized more than 160 glass demonstrations, lectures and exhibitions in museums, galleries and other venues across the United States. The Society for Contemporary Craft (SCC) will join in this celebration by presenting the exhibition, *Pittsburgh Studio Glass*, featuring the work of Drew Hine, Jon Sirockman, Theo Keller and Bill Zarvis. The exhibition, which offers an in-depth look at the unique techniques and exquisite glasswork of these four contemporary studio makers, opens in SCC's satellite gallery at BNY Mellon Center in downtown Pittsburgh on Friday, May 4 and continues through Sunday, September 30, 2012.

Drew Hine resides in Pittsburgh's South Side where he runs his private glassblowing shop, Vessel Studio, with his wife Jeannine. Hine's passion for glass began when, as a ceramics major, he found himself in a glassblowing class. From the start, form and color have been focal points of his work. The artist enjoys exploring the simplicity and perfection of the vessel, and strives to create tall, beautiful forms. His most recent work incorporates bright, vivid color, yet maintains the sleek, modern shapes that are his signature. Like Hine, Jon Sirockman, who currently works as Hine's assistant, creates blown glass works that explore the interaction of light and color with design and form. About his process Sirockman comments, "I feel a connection to the entire process of blowing glass as silica sand is transformed into clear molten crystal. To transfer such energy takes exact timing and balance, a fluidity and adaptability of movement; in a very real sense, the artist must become one with the glass."

Theo Keller uses lampworking techniques to create his unique art glass creations. Lampworking is a type of glasswork that uses a gas-fueled torch to melt rods and tubes of clear and colored glass. Once in a molten state, the glass is formed by blowing and shaping with tools and hand movements. The process differs from glassblowing in that glassblowing uses a blowpipe to inflate a glass blob known as a gather, whereas lampworking manipulates glass either by the use of tools, gravity or by blowing directly into the end of a glass tube.

Raised by his parents in a pottery, sculpture and painting studio in Maine, Keller developed a taste for fine art at an early age. Growing up around artisans and craftsmen, he was able to learn many techniques in various crafts. He began his formal apprenticeship in New Mexico under noted sculptor and glass bead maker, Lewis Wilson. In subsequent years, he studied under Bandhu Scott Dunham, Roger Parramore and Italian glass master, Emilio Santini. In his work, Keller



Theo Keller, *Where's the Salt*, 2011
Blown glass, 24" x 17" x 8" Photo: Dave Smith

concentrates on design, form and nuance in concert with complex arrangements, which encourages a reinterpretation of the individual forms.

Bill Zarvis' work incorporates surprising textures and contrasting colors that add a contemporary dimension to his traditional forms. A native of Pittsburgh, Zarvis began taking classes at the Pittsburgh Glass Center in 2000. His interests led him to the cold studio with a focus on carving and cutting glass. He has since established a private cold working and a glass-casting studio where he continues to explore and develop his skills and interests as a studio glass artist.

SCC is a nonprofit, visual arts organization that presents regional, national and international contemporary art in craft media. The satellite gallery is located in the "T" station lobby of BNY Mellon Center and is open daily through midnight. SCC's main location at 2100 Smallman Street in the Strip District neighborhood of Pittsburgh, PA is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person. For more information, visit www.contemporarycraft.org or contact Kate Lydon at 412.261.7003 x 15.

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