



Kittrell/Riffkind Art Glass

SUSAN RANKIN

This is a special joy for Rankin, who purposely lives in the spectacular Precambrian shield region of Ontario – known for beautiful hardwood forests, but short on a summer growing season. Rankin addresses the issue of having a love affair with her garden in a frigid northern climate by incorporating the garden's magic in her glasswork. She's careful to accurately depict the vegetation – some petals might be bent or wilted or not fully opened. "They are flowers that are in the moment," she says. "They have gestures. They're not perfect and they're not all the same." Rankin creates each flower on the pipe, pinching and snipping each petal out. She places the flowers in the kiln while she works on the vase. When she's happy with the shape of the vase, she begins to adhere the flowers, vines and petals using torchwork. She says she likes to "pile on" the flowers, to "over-decorate" the vase, resembling the lushness and abundance of a garden setting. In a unique step, she sandblasts the exterior to soften the look. "It's funny because I work with glass, but I don't like the shiny aspect of glass, because gardens aren't shiny." Instead, she denies the glassiness to give the piece a "crawling in dirt" feel. Within the flowering vine vessel series she uses black enamel and in a final step, she adds painted detail before she seals the vase. Rankin, who also teaches at the Haliburton School of the Arts, says she spends a lot of time planning and drawing forms in charcoal. She says she finds inspiration in classical forms because they are very sensual, pointing to the tight waist and broad shoulders of some of her vases.

It's no accident that Rankin is an artist. Her mother is an accomplished painter and art curriculum writer for the public school system in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan where she was born and raised. Her father was a successful photographer, but tragically died in a plane crash before she was born. Rankin's early life was surrounded in art – both in the family home and through helping her mother with galleries and shows. Ironically, when fourteen, she stopped taking art classes in school because she was bored and felt she was not learning anything new. At seventeen, Rankin participated in her first show – a textile show – working in fiber. It would still be some time before Rankin handled her first piece of glass. Three years later, Rankin was drawing designs for a stained glass art business that she and her first husband shared in Vancouver, British Columbia. She recalls it was there that she was "wowed" by glass blowing when she first saw the art. Before long she headed to the well-known Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwood Washington where fellow Canadians encouraged her to head to Sheridan College in Toronto, Canada. After graduation, she took up a three-year artist residency at the famed Harbourfront Centre in Toronto. Since then, her work has appeared in numerous solo and invitational exhibitions and in collections across North America, including the Corning Museum. She works with her assistants, Blaise Campbell, Sally McCubbin and Jay Olauson, from her studio near Apsley in central Ontario, alongside her second husband Brad Copping, a glass artist she met while at Sheridan College. The couple take time each summer to attend workshops and collaborate with other glass artists.

Susan has won numerous awards and acknowledges the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts and The Ontario Arts Council. Her work has been published in 'Studio Glass, Anna & Joe Mendel Collection', The Montreal Museum of Fine arts, 'Susan Rankin: valid objects of beauty', Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery, Cinzia Corella, 'Contemporary Canadian Glass', Winter 2007, Sally McCubbin, 'World Art Glass Quarterly', Volume 2 2007, Jill Culora, 'Contemporary Canadian Glass,' Spring 2007, Cinzia Corella, '500 Glass Objects', Lark Books 2006, 'Glass Art : International 2003', Richard Yelle 2003, 'Sheridan The Cutting Edge in Crafts', James Strecker '99, 'New Glass Review', USA '91, '96, '97 & 2004, and 'A Treasury of Canadian Craft', Canada and Japan '92.

Her lively voluptuous vessels wrapped in vines, leaves and flowers have been shown in 30 solo exhibitions and numerous invitational and group exhibitions across North America in many of the most prestigious venues for contemporary glass. Rankin has work included in public collections at the Corning

Museum, Claridge Collection, Michel-Pierre Grenier Collection, Saskatchewan Arts Board, Winnipeg Art Gallery, USB Bank (Canada), Department of Foreign Affairs, Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal, Montréal, Quebec, Glazen Huis, Flemish Centre for Contemporary Glass Art, Lommel, Belgium, well as in many fine private collections.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2014 'Susan Rankin new work', Hand Wave, Meacham, Saskatchewan
- 2013 'Valid objects of beauty', Station Gallery, Whilby, Ontario
- 2012 'Valid objects of beauty', The Ontario Craft Council Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
- 2011 'Valid objects of beauty', The Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre, Medicine Hat, Alberta
- 2010 'Valid objects of beauty', Saskatchewan Craft Council, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
'Valid objects of beauty', Art Gallery of Swift Current, Swift Current, Saskatchewan
- 2009 'Valid objects of beauty', Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
'Susan Rankin' Hand Wave Gallery, Meacham, Saskatchewan
- 2008 'Susan Rankin', Studio 21 Fine Art, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- 2007 'In Bloom', Nan Miller Gallery, Rochester, NY
- 2006 'About the Garden', Galerie Elena Lee, Montreal, Quebec
- 2005 'Epergne Revisited', Lafreniere & Pai Gallery, Ottawa, Ontario
'Contained Glass', Martin Arts Gallery, Bayfield, Ontario
- 2004 'Epergene', Uncommon Objects, York Quay Centre, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, Ontario
- 2003 Prime Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
Starfish Glassworks, Victoria, B.C
Galerie Elena Lee, Montreal, Quebec
- 2000 Habatat Galleries, Boca Raton, FL
Galerie Elena Lee Verre D'Art, Montreal, Quebec
- 1999 Prime Gallery Toronto, Ontario
- 1998 Russell Gallery, Peterborough, Ontario
Studio 21 Fine Art, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- 1997 Gallery Elena Lee Verre D'Art, Montreal, Quebec
Studio 21 Fine Art, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- 1996 'Controlled Neglect', Russell Gallery, Peterborough, Ontario
- 1995 'Flowers', Galerie Elena Lee Verre D'Art, Montreal, Quebec
- 1994 Harbinger Gallery Inc., Waterloo, Ontario
- 1993 Galerie Elena Lee Verre D'Art, Montreal, Quebec
- 1992 Harbinger Gallery Inc., Waterloo, Ontario
'Flower Vase Series', Gallery Lynda Greenberg, Ottawa, Ontario
- 1991 'Essence', Saskatchewan Craft Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
'Migration', The Hand Wave, Meacham, Saskatchewan
'Migration Series', Homer Watson House & Gallery, Kitchener, Ontario

Selected Exhibitions

- 2014 'Duality in a Diaphanous Landscape', Strathcona County Art Gallery @501, Sherwood Park, Alberta.
'In the Garden', Burlington Art Centre, Burlington, Ontario.
'Rear View: Looking back while moving forward', Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, Ontario.
- 2013 'Assembly of Light', Endeavor Art Gallery, Calgary, AB.
Playing with Fire', Water Street Gallery, Douglas, MI
- 2012 'Winterlude 2012 – Blizz-ART', Outdoor Sculpture Installation, Ottawa, Ontario
'Raising Eyebrows', Water Street Gallery, Douglas, MI
'SOFA New York & Chicago', Option Art
'The Last Glass Show', GAAC members show, OCC Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
- 2011 'Art Prize', Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids, MI
'Making Sense', John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto, Ontario

- 'SOFA New York 2011', Option Art
 'Prairie Scene', Lafreniere & Pai Gallery, Ottawa, Ontario
- 2010 'Teapots! 4th Invitational Exhibition', Morgan Contemporary Glass Gallery, Pittsburgh PA.
 'SOFA New York 2010' Option Art
 'SOFA Chicago 2010' – SOLO Booth, Option Art
 '400 Years of Glass:' Galerie Elena Lee, Montreal, Quebec
 'Glass Factor:Luminaries in the Canadian Art Glass Scene', Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery, Waterloo, Ontario.
- 2009 Floral Feature, Kuivato Gallery, Sedona, AZ
 All Canadian Glass Show, Hodgell Gallery, Sarasota, FL
 'Glass Under Glass', Royal Botanical Garden, Burlington, Ontario
 'SOFA New York', Option Art
- 2008 'Palmbeach 3', Option Art, West Palm Beach, FL
 'Glass Under Glass', Royal Botanical Garden, Burlington, Ontario
 Interior Design Show 08, Design Live - Cubic Yard Design & A.K. Collings Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
- 2007 'Palmbeach 3', Option Art, West Palm Beach, FL
 'A Vital Mix', Ontario Craft Council 30th Anniversary, Toronto, Ontario
 'Susan Rankin – wired forms, Alice Burton – Paintings' A.K. Collings Gallery, Port Hope, Ontario
 'SOFA New York 2007', Option Art
 'OBJECToronto' - Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, Ontario
 'SOFA Chicago 2007', Option Art
- 2006 'Susan Rankin - Glass, Kelvin Britton - Paintings', A.K. Collings Gallery, Port Hope, Ontario
 'Architectural Digest Interior Design Show – New York', Option Art
 'OBJECToronto', Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, Ontario
 'SOFA New York & Chicago 2006', Option Art
 'Art in the Garden', Kiwi Gardens, Perth, Ontario
 'Le Verre Hot', Materia, Quebec City, Quebec
- 2005 'SOFA Chicago 2005', Option Art
 'SOFA Palm Beach 2005', Option Art
 'SOFA New York 2005', Option Art
- 2004 'Fragile Nature', Habatat Galleries Michigan, Birmingham, MI
 '32nd Annual International Glass Invitational, Habatat Galleries Michigan, Royal Oak MI
 'North of the Border', Habatat Galleries Michigan, Royal Oak, MI
 'SOFA New York 2004', Galerie Elena Lee
 'Contemporary Glassworks', The Guild Shop, Toronto, Ontario
 '20 year anniversary', Shelley Tadman Gallery, Featured artist, Winnipeg, Manitoba
 '3 night stand', Gladston Hotel, Toronto, Ontario

Education

- 2002 Penland School, Penland, NC
 2000 Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, ME
 1996 Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, ME
 1994 Haystack Mountain School of Crafts. Deer Isle, ME
 1987-89 Sheridan College School of Craft & Design, Oakville, Ontario, Glass Major
 1989 Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA
 1987 Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA
 1984 Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA

Publications

- 2014 Sydney Lancaster, Review: Duality in a Diaphanous Landscape Susan Rankin and Manola Borrajo Giner, *Contemporary Canadian Glass*, June 2014.
- 2013 Gil McElroy, 'Review Susan Rankin: valid objects of beauty', *Fusion Magazine*, Volume 37 Number 3 2013.
- 2012 Cinzia Corella, 'Review Susan Rankin: valid objects of beauty', *Studio: Craft and Design in Canada*, Fall/Winter 2012-13.
- 2010 -Catalogue, '*Studio Glass, Anna & Joe Mendel Collection*', The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
- 2009 -Cinzia Corella 'Susan Rankin Valid Objects of Beauty', Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
- 2008 -Sally McCubbin, 'A day in the life in Apsley, Ontario', *Contemporary Canadian Glass*, Winter 2007
- 2007 -Jill Culora, 'A Garden in Glass', *World Art Glass Quarterly Magazine*, Volume 2, 2007
- Cinzia Corella, 'about the garden: an invitation to dialogue', *Contemporary Canadian Glass*, Spring 2007
- Catalogue, 'palmbeach 3', Option Art, West Palm Beach, FL
- 2006 -'500 Glass Objects', Lark Books
- 2004 -Catalogue, 'Epergne', Uncommon Objects, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, Ontario
- New Glass Review 25, The Corning Museum of Glass
- Agatha Cinader, 'Review – Epergne-Sue Rankin', *Contemporary Canadian Glass*, Vol. 4 - #56, Spring 2004
- 2003 -Richard Yelle, 'Glass Art: International 2003'
- 2002 -Catalogue, '19th International Glass Invitational', Habatat Galleries, Boca Raton, FL
- 2001 - Ellen Wieske, 'Wirework', Lark Books
- Catalogue, '18th International Glass Invitational', Habatat Galleries, Boca Raton, FL
- 1999 -James Strecker, 'Sheridan The Cutting Edge In Crafts', Boston Mills Press
- Deena Waisberg, 'Profile - Artist cultivates a garden of glass', *The Toronto Star*, Sunday September 26, 1999
- Catalogue, '17th International Glass Invitational', Habatat Galleries, Boca Raton, FL
- 1997 -New Glass Review 18, The Corning Museum of Glass
- Catalogue, '16th International Glass Invitational', Habatat Galleries, Boca Raton, FL
- 1996 -New Glass Review 17, The Corning Museum of Glass
- Catalogue, '20 Years Galerie Elena Lee', Galerie Elena Lee Verre D'Art
- Catalogue, '15th International Glass Invitational', Habatat Galleries, Boca Raton, FL
- 1995 -Patricia Tolmie, 'Guild Shop Talk', *Craft News*, Vol. 20 / No. 3, July -Aug. '95
- Kevin Lockau, 'Gesture of Grace', *Glass Gazette*, Summer 1995
- 1993 -Catalogue, 'Vision to Reality', Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery
- Catalogue, 'Taipei International Exhibition of Traditional Arts & Crafts, 1993', Taipei Fine Arts Museum
- Catalogue, 'Selected Treasures; a Treasury of Canadian Craft', Taipei Fine Arts Museum
- Fusion Magazine, Vol. 17/No. 3 Summer 1993
- Hickey, Gloria, 'Canadian Glass Now', *Neues Glas/New Glass*, 1/93
- 1992 -Catalogue, 'A Treasury of Canadian Craft', Inaugural exhibition, The Canadian Craft Museum, Vancouver, B.C.
- Orthner, Patricia, *Fusion Magazine*, vol. 16 no. 2, summer
- 1991 -Craft News, vol. 16 no. 1, January, Ontario Craft Council
- Ontario Craft, summer, Ontario Craft Council
- New Glass Review 12, The Corning Museum of Glass
- Flood, Sandra, *The Craft Factor*, vol. 16, no.3, fall, Saskatchewan Craft Council
- 1990 -The Craft Factor, vol. 15, no.4, Winter, Saskatchewan Craft Council
- Catalogue, 'The International Exhibition of Glass Kanazawa '90'
- 1988 -The Craft Factor, vol. 13, no. 2, summer, Saskatchewan Craft Council

Collections

Corning Museum, Corning, N.Y., Claridge Collection, Montréal, Québec. The Michel-Pierre Grenier Collection, Montréal, Québec. Saskatchewan Arts Board, Regina, Sask., Moose Jaw Art Museum, Moose Jaw Sask., Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, Manitoba., SkyDome, Toronto, Ontario. UBS Bank (Canada), Toronto, Ontario, Department of foreign affairs, Government of Canada, des beaux-arts de Montréal, Montréal, Quebec, Flemish Centre for Contemporary Glass Art, Lommel, Belgium