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ARTISTS TO DEMONSTRATE PIPEMAKING IN THE MUSEUM OF GLASS HOT SHOP ON APRIL 20 AND 21

TACOMA, WA. — Although the Pacific Northwest is renowned for its hot glass community, a portion of these artists have sometimes been overlooked in the conversation. The greater pipe community also has its origins in the region, and developed alongside the rise of soft glass.

In 2023, Museum of Glass accepted into its Permanent Collection three pieces from Ryan “Buck” Harris of Buck Glass. These pieces (see below) – usable glass pipes painstakingly flameworked by the artist – are the first of their kind that have a permanent home at the Museum. Now, with the mission of further exploring this important corner of the glassmaking world and elevating these artists, **Museum of Glass is hosting a collaboration of soft glass and borosilicate (hard glass) pipemakers in the Hot Shop for *Chronic Heat: A Joint Venture* on April 20 and 21.** Moving past preconceived notions of this approach, Museum of Glass is thrilled to present this complex, and once taboo, art form which bridges the gap between functional and fine art.

Working on one side of the shop, soft glass pipemakers will take the stage to demonstrate their approach at the furnace. On the other side of the shop, artists will demonstrate how modern borosilicate glass rigs are made.

Demonstrations will take place both Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm. On Sunday at 1pm, the Museum will host an Artist Talk with Joe Tsoulfas (BigSpin Glass), where he will discuss the history of the pipemaking industry that started here on the west coast.

Regular Museum admission is required.

Soft Glass vs. Borosilicate Glass

Soft glass (soda-lime glass) has a relatively high coefficient of expansion. This type of glass, melted in the furnace and then shaped and sculpted, is what one most commonly sees used in the Museum Hot Shop. It melts at lower temperatures but is more sensitive to extreme heat and cold and is therefore susceptible to shock. Some pipes during (title) will be made with soft glass.

Borosilicate glass (hard glass) has a relatively low coefficient of expansion, which makes it resistant to thermal shock. This allows the glass to withstand extreme changes in temperature. Borosilicate glass must be melted at a much higher temperature than soft glass but allows the artists using it to be very exacting. Glass rigs are often made with borosilicate glass.



Demonstrating Artists

Nic Asturino (Annealed Innovations)
 Jeff Ballard (Soft Serve Glass)
 Chris Carlson
 Patricia Davidson
 Jason Elliot (JLE Glass)
 Scott Moan (Scomonet)
 Johnny Quest (Quest Glass)
 Cameron Tower
 Joe Tsoulfas (Bigspin Glass)
 Edgar Valentine

Work from Demonstrating Artists Jeff Ballard (Soft Serve Glass) and Joe Tsoufas (Bigspin Glass)



Jeff Ballard. *Bowtie*.



Jeff Ballard. *Celadon Dichro Diamond*.



Jeff Ballard. *Multi-cone*.



Jeff Ballard. *Multi-sphere*.



Joe Tsoufas. *Mediterranean Bliss*.



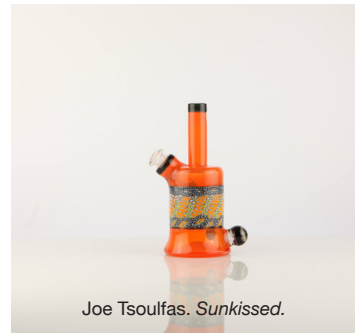
Joe Tsoufas. *Frogger*.



Joe Tsoufas. *Flower Safari*.



Joe Tsoufas. *Boro set*.

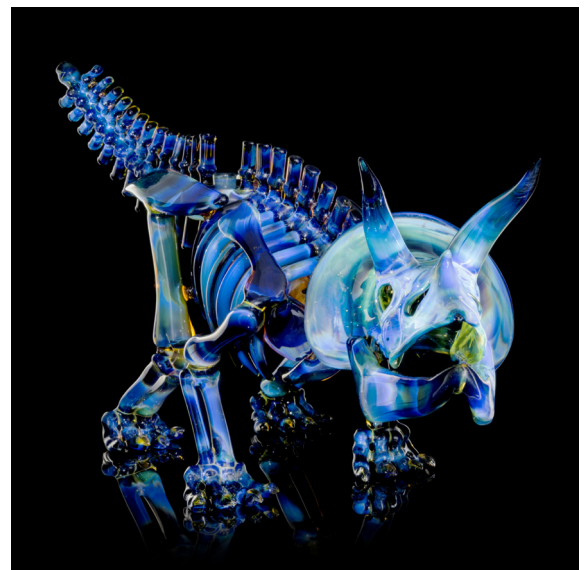


Joe Tsoufas. *Sunkissed*.

New to the Museum Permanent Collection

Triceratops Skeleton is an intricate, fully functional glass pipe painstakingly flameworked by artist Ryan “Buck” Harris. Harris owns and operates his own studio on the central Oregon coast and has a reputation for sculpting these unexpected – and awesome– pieces. Adapting hot-glass techniques to create pipes started in the 1980s, when flameworker Bob Snodgrass began making small pipes to sell at Grateful Dead concerts. Like street artists, this community of pipe-makers developed largely underground over the next forty years, pushing the technical boundaries of this torch-based sculpting technique well beyond its traditional use to create paperweights and marbles.

Triceratops Skeleton is the first example of functional glass pipes to be accepted into the Museum’s Permanent Collection, the tip of an iceberg of innovative and avant garde glassmakers.



Ryan “Buck” Harris (American, born 1981. *Triceratops Skeleton*, 2022. Flameworked glass; 9 × 5 × 20 in.. Collection of Museum of Glass, anonymous gift. Photo by Lucas Reilly.

About Museum of Glass

Located in Tacoma, Washington, Museum of Glass is a premier contemporary art museum dedicated to glass and glassmaking with the West Coast's largest and most active museum glass studio. Opened in 2002, the Museum has established a reputation for hosting impactful and engaging artist residencies, organizing nationally traveling exhibitions, and creating unique programs for visitors while building a growing permanent collection chronicling the development of modern and contemporary glass. Museum of Glass provides an environment for artists and the public to ignite creativity, fuel discovery, and enrich their lives through glass and glassmaking.

Quick Facts

- Museum of Glass has displayed over 140 exhibitions since 2002, featuring glass art pioneers such as Dale Chihuly, Lino Tagliapietra, and Preston Singletary.
- Over 100,000 visitors explore the Museum each year.
- The Hot Shop hosts over 35 Visiting Artist Residencies each year.
- The Museum has engaged over 200,000 children through educational programs.
- 750 soldiers and veterans have been served through the Hot Shop Heroes program

Address: 1801 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

Hours: 10am-5pm, Wednesday - Sunday. Third Thursday of every month, 5am-8pm, free admission

Admission: \$20 - Adults; \$18 - Seniors (65+)/College Students (18+)/Military (Active and Veteran); \$12 - Children (6-18); Free - Children (under 6); Free - Museum Members; \$1/person; \$2/family - EBT Cardholders

