



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT:

Discover Creativity and Collaboration with *Foraging the Hive*

Tacoma, WA. — What can beehives teach us about human cooperation and creativity? Tacoma artist Tyler Budge has been collaborating with Providence, RI artist Sara Young to investigate this very question. Budge is a beekeeper himself and learned to build his own apiary through classes hosted by Pierce County Beekeeping Association. His personal experiences with beekeeping and honey extraction inspired his collaboration with fellow beekeeper Young. Through their work, they draw many connections between the productivity of a beehive and the process of artistic creation.

Budge and Young's newest collaboration, *Foraging the Hive*, will be on display as an exhibition at Museum of Glass, opening May 26, 2018. The gallery installation will be composed of approximately 8,000 test tubes suspended in a swarm-like configuration. Each test tube, like the cells of the honeycomb, have been filled by Budge and Young with small sculptures assembled from items that inspire them. Just as bees collect nectar to make honey, the artists collect materials and objects from their own environment. Budge adds, "The glass test tubes allow us to collect, manipulate, create, store, and record our artistic thoughts and configurations. They are sealed with beeswax to store and preserve our intellectual 'crop.' By collecting these tubes, we have created a glass hive." Visitors will be invited into this glass "hive," as if they were a member of the swarm.

The exhibition will also include a functional apiary, displayed on the Museum's outdoor plaza. The hives will be actively maintained throughout the exhibition, and will eventually be home to more than 70,000 bees. Budge and Young hope that it will educate visitors as to the impact bees have on our environment and agricultural economy. The interior of the hive will stream live to the gallery, so visitors can see the bees at work.

Adjacent to the beehive, the Museum will join forces with Washington State University/Pierce County Master Gardeners to design and build a garden with bee-friendly plantings. Bees are important cross-pollinators. While collecting pollen to turn into nectar, bees fly from flower to flower, transferring pollen from one plant to another, fertilizing plants so they can grow and produce food. This form of cross-pollination is responsible for helping at least 30% of the world's crops grow and thrive, and serves as a strong inspiration for the artists.

The experience of visiting *Foraging the Hive* does not stop with mere observation. Participation is an important part of the experience for Budge and Young. Just as a colony of bees work together, the artists will invite visitors to join them in continuing to fill test tubes with their own inspirations. Each of these test tubes will be added to a growing installation which will evolve in the Museum's Grand Hall throughout the exhibition's duration. If you ask the artists, the act of creation and collaboration is the most important part of the exhibition. Budge and Young hope that each of us will take a minute to put down our smartphones and have a moment of creativity. They want visitors to consider how materials around them become beautiful when manipulated, collected, and stored. Like the bees who labor to turn nectar into honey, *Foraging the Hive*, connects viewers to the power we have as a society to work together and create new ideas.



Young and Budge at Reilly Gallery at Smith Center for the Arts, Providence College, RI.
Photo courtesy of the artists.

About Museum of Glass

Located in Tacoma, Washington, Museum of Glass is a premier contemporary art museum dedicated to glass and glassmaking in 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. Museum of Glass is a non-profit organization sponsored in part by the City of Tacoma Arts Commission, ArtsFund, The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, The Dimmer Family Foundation, and the Driscoll Foundation.



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