

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**IMAGE AVAILABLE**

## Thirteenth Annual Bird Lovers' Weekend

### Live Glass Bird-Making, Family-Friendly Activities, and Special Visits with Bird Ambassadors

Tacoma, Wash. — littala Birds by Oiva Toikka return to Museum of Glass (MOG) for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year from October 21 to October 23, 2016. The internationally-renowned glass creations from Finland's glass giant littala are the focus of Bird Lovers' Weekend, which will feature many opportunities to celebrate wild birds.

In addition to special events, Finnish master glassblowers Helena Welling and Juha Saarikko will create glass birds designed by the legendary Professor Oiva Toikka in the MOG Hot Shop Friday, October 21, through Sunday, October 23. Over 30 birds designed by Professor Toikka will also be included in a Grand Hall display, curated and designed in collaboration with Tahoma Audubon. The birds are part of a promised gift from Paul Kangas.

During Bird Lovers' Weekend, visitors can take a limited-edition *Ruddy Duck* home to their nest. The newest Birds by Toikka design, the *Ruddy Duck*, is available at the Museum of Glass Store. The Museum will feature the first 50 birds from a limited edition of 300 *Ruddy Ducks*.

Birds handmade in the Hot Shop by Welling and Saarikko will be available for purchase on October 22 and 23.

Previous Birds by Toikka created for Museum of Glass include *American Goldfinch* (2004), *Pacific Water Fowl* (2005), *Spotted Towhee* (2006), *Red-winged Blackbird* (2007), *Ruffed Grouse* (2008), *Swift* (2009), *Kingfisher* (2010), *Woodpecker* (2011), *Western Tanager* (2012), *Wood Ducks* (2013), *Anna's Hummingbird* (2014), and *Steller's Jay* (2015).



Oiva Toikka (Finnish, born 1931). *Ruddy Duck*, 2016. Blown glass. 8.65 x 5.10 inches. Image courtesy of littala Inc.

Bird Lovers' Weekend events include a variety of art and educational activities, including a weekend-long display from Pacific Lutheran University's Scandinavian Cultural Center, which will include Marimekko® fabrics from Finland.

Schedule of events:

- **Friday, October 21**

- 10 am – 5 pm: Birds by Toikka glass bird-making demonstrations by Iittala artists in the Hot Shop.

- **Saturday, October 22**

- 10 am – 4 pm: Visit Tahoma Audubon's table to learn about birds!
- 10 am – 5 pm: Birds by Toikka glass bird-making demonstrations by Iittala artists in the Hot Shop.
- 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Enjoy a special visit with bird ambassadors from Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.
- 1 – 4 pm: Join artist Larry Calkins and celebrate all things bird-related! Create your own wire bird sculpture and vintage bird ornament.
- 2 pm: Winner of Be a Bird Designer chosen. Children 12 and under are invited to submit bird designs in the morning, and a winning drawing will be selected at 2 pm and transformed into glass.
- Design your own bird for \$500 per person; \$450 members. Email [findlay@museumofglass.org](mailto:findlay@museumofglass.org) or call 253.284.4734 for details and reservations.

- **Sunday, October 23**

- 11 am – 1 pm: Museum of Glass members' brunch (free for members). The morning will also include an opportunity for members to have their bird signed by Iittala artists, Helena Welling and Juha Saarikko, from 11:30 am to 12 pm.
- 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Enjoy a special visit with bird ambassadors from Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium.
- 12 – 5 pm: Tahoma Audubon will be answering questions and Livakat's live Finnish Kantele music by will fill the Grand Hall throughout the day.
- 12 – 5 pm: Birds by Toikka glass bird-making demonstrations by Iittala artists in the Hot Shop.
- 2 pm: Winner of Be a Bird Designer chosen. Children 12 and under are invited to submit bird designs in the morning, and a winning drawing will be selected at 2 pm and transformed into glass.
- Design your own bird for \$500 per person; \$450 members. Email [findlay@museumofglass.org](mailto:findlay@museumofglass.org) or call 253.284.4734 for details and reservations.

Bird Lovers' Weekend activities are free with paid admission to Museum of Glass. Free for MOG members.

Museum of Glass is sponsored in part by City of Tacoma Arts Commission, ArtsFund, The Dimmer Family Foundation, and The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation.



### Hours and Admission

Museum and Store open Wednesday through Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, Third Thursdays 10 am to 8 pm, and Sundays 12 pm to 5 pm until Memorial Day. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Open Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Presidents' Day. Museum and Store open Monday through Sunday during Summer months, Memorial Day through Labor Day. Open Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day.

Admission is free for members, \$15 general, \$12 seniors, military and students (13+ with ID), \$13 AAA Members, \$12 groups of 20 or more, \$10 groups of 50 or more, and \$5 for children (6-12) years old. Children 5 and under are admitted free. Admission is free every third Thursday of the month from 5 pm to 8 pm. Free admission for active-duty military families from Memorial Day to Labor Day through the Blue Star Museums program.

Info Line 253-284-4750/ 1-866-4MUSEUM  
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