

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A TWO-WAY MIRROR: DOUBLE CONSCIOUSNESS IN CONTEMPORARY GLASS BY BLACK ARTISTS TO OPEN OCTOBER 21 AT MUSEUM OF GLASS

Landmark exhibition at Museum of Glass features the work of contemporary Black artists who have used glass to deconstruct and interrogate social, cultural, gender, and racial identity constructs.



Layo Bright (Nigerian, born 1991). *Adebisi I* and *Adebisi VII*, 2020. Kiln formed glass; 11 1/2 x 11 1/2 x 3 in. Courtesy of the artist and Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago, Illinois.

"It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness [sic], this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others, of measuring one's soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity. One ever feels his two-ness, — ... two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder." - W.E.B. Dubois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

TACOMA, WA. — Museum of Glass is proud to announce *A Two-Way Mirror: Double Consciousness in Contemporary Glass by Black Artists*, opening October 21 and on view until fall 2024. *A Two-Way Mirror* is an exhibition of contemporary Black artists who have used glass to create work that deconstructs social, cultural, gender, and racial identity concerns. The artists range in background from African American, to British, to Puerto Rican, and each uses glass to reflect thoughts and bodies that have historically been fraught with exploitation. Due to its reflectivity and translucence, glass is an apt medium to interrogate identity constructs such as the theory of double consciousness presented by W.E.B. Dubois in his seminal work, *The Souls of Black Folk*.

"I proposed this exhibition because I wanted to see what artists of color were already doing in the medium and what they had the potential to say. I found the medium to be so rich for exploring personal identity, and it provides the opportunity to look at oneself. So, I looked for myself in the medium of glass and I found *A Two-Way Mirror*," said exhibition curator Jabari Owens-Bailey.

Glass art has been predominantly devoid of access for historically marginalized groups of people. This has been, in large part, due to racial oppression, the cost of production, and the class division between artist and artisan. This exhibition cannot rectify these historic wrongs, but it is the Museum's hope that *A Two-Way Mirror* will create a space in which to explore this inequity and offer works by artists of African descent which tell the artists' own stories.

"As the production of glass has become more accessible, the medium has become more open to a wider range of voices. People of different racial, gender, sexual, and class identities can now tell their stories through glass. The medium reflects not only the inner truths of both the viewers and makers, but that of western society, and all the clandestine and muddied histories that lie within its core. The beautiful parts, abject parts, resilient parts, and the opaque all make themselves more evident as the viewer continues to stare through the glass," added Owens-Bailey.

Many of the pieces in the exhibition are abstract, while others are representational. Each of the exhibiting artists uses glass as a proxy for a body, portrait, mental state, or historical trope. Throughout the exhibition, Dubois's idea of double consciousness is explored as the glass functions as a metaphorical structure for that which is both seen and unseen.



Chris Day (British, born 1968). *Strange Fruit*, 2018. Blown and sculpted glass with steel, hessian cord and reclaimed electrical wire; Dimensions vary. Courtesy of the artist and Vessel Gallery, London. Photo by Duncan Price.



Renée Stout (American, born 1958). *High John the Conqueror Root and Orrisroot*, Made at the Museum in 2011. Hot blown and sculpted, organic material; 8 x 4 in. Collection of Museum of Glass, gift of the artist. Photo by Duncan price.

“It is an honor for the Museum to be a platform for the important conversations taking place through the works in *A Two-Way Mirror*,” said Museum of Glass Curator Katie Buckingham. “We hope that visitors to the exhibition will be compelled to reflect on, celebrate, and learn from the powerful, personal contributions Black artists in the glass community.”

The exhibition will unfold through world-class artworks created by Anthony Amoako-Attah, Radcliffe Bailey, Layo Bright, Crystal Z. Campbell, Chris Day, Cheryl Derricotte, Alejandro Guzman, Mildred Howard, Jason McDonald, Parfums de Vigny, Ebony G. Patterson, Pellatt & Green, Related Tactics, Salviati and Company, Joyce J. Scott, Shikeith, Therman Statom, Renée Stout, Barbara Earl Thomas, Hank Willis Thomas, Leo Tecosky, Kara Walker, and Fred Wilson. Day, Bailey, Scott, Statom, Stout, Tecosky, and Wilson have been participants in the Museum’s Visiting Artist Residency program, and several works to be exhibited in *A Two-Way Mirror* were created in the Museum’s Hot Shop.

On October 20, from 5:30-8pm, Museum of Glass will hold an Exhibition Preview + Member Opening. This event is free to attend for Museum members and \$10 for non-members. RSVP and learn more at museumofglass.org.

Learn more about *A Two-Way Mirror* here: museumofglass.org/a-two-way-mirror.

Exhibition Programming

Exhibition Preview/Opening Celebration

Friday, October 20 | 5:30pm – 8pm

Free to attend for Museum Members / \$10 for non-members

RSVP at museumofglass.org

This celebration will feature welcome remarks by the curator, art activations, performances, and light bites.

Artist Engagements

Exhibiting Artist Panel Discussion: *Glass as a Medium to Explore Identity*

Saturday, October 21 | 1-2pm

Free with Museum admission

Exhibiting artists Chris Day and Cheryl Derricotte will discuss their personal journeys as well as their relationship to glass as a medium.

Layo Bright Visiting Artist Residency

December 13-17

Free with Museum admission

Layo Bright is a Nigerian sculptor who explores migration, legacy, and identity through hybrid portraits, textiles, and mixed media works. She received her MFA with Honors from the Parsons School of Design and has been awarded the International Sculpture Center’s Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award in support of her work. Layo Bright’s work is featured in *A Two-Way Mirror*.

Visiting Artist Reception and Q&A with Layo Bright

December 14 | 4-7pm

Open to Museum members

Family Day: Two Ways About It

Saturday, November 11 | 1-4pm

Free with Museum admission

MOG educator and *A Two-Way Mirror* curator Jabari Owens-Bailey will lead a collage activity inspired by Anthony Amoako-Attah’s artwork, reminiscent of West African textiles.

A Two-Way Mirror Podcasts

[A Two-Way Conversation with Chris Day](#) – July 10, 2023

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. More about Hot Shop Heroes can be found [here](#).

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