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NEW EXHIBITION EXPLORES 18-YEAR ARTIST RESIDENCY COLLABORATION BETWEEN MUSEUM OF GLASS AND PILCHUCK GLASS SCHOOL

What Are You Looking At? An Eccentric Chorus of Artists Working in Glass is on view through fall 2022

Tacoma, Wash. – Museum of Glass (MOG) in partnership with Pilchuck Glass School presents <u>What Are You Looking At? An Eccentric Chorus of Artists Working in Glass</u>, on view now at MOG. The exhibition explores work created through an 18-year residency partnership between Pilchuck Glass School and Museum of Glass, a collaboration that has provided a diverse group of artists, designers, and craftspeople with the opportunity to experiment in glass. Through the program participants have pushed both their artistic practices and the potential for glass to new horizons.

Curated by Benjamin Cobb, Hot Shop Director at Museum of Glass, and Benjamin Wright, Artistic Director at Pilchuck Glass School, the exhibition celebrates the 50th anniversary of Pilchuck Glass School and the upcoming 20th anniversary of Museum of Glass. It features work by Megan Stelljes, Joe Feddersen, Tom Moore, Einar & Jamex De la Torre, Vivian Beer, Jessica Jane Julius, and many more.

What Are You Looking At? highlights work from the Permanent Collection of Museum of Glass, sharing a glimpse into the ideas pursued during residencies in the context of each artist's larger artistic practice. Videos illuminate the artists' diverse intentions in their own words and guide viewers to determine for themselves what they are looking at.

"I've had the fortune of working at MOG since the Museum opened. One of the most compelling things about the Visiting Artist Residency Program is working alongside each artist and learning about their inspirations and personal practice," said Benjamin Cobb, Hot Shop Director at Museum of Glass. "Seeing how artist's work has developed as the result of residencies and being part of that process is what inspires me and fueled the collaborative idea for this exhibition."

The Visiting Artist Residency Program at Museum of Glass began in 2002 when the Museum opened its doors. Over the years it's provided more than 700 artists from a variety of backgrounds and mediums with the opportunity to work in glass with the renowned MOG Hot Shop Team. Artists in residence have been an essential component of Pilchuck's unique curriculum since its inception and play a vital role in the creative life of the campus. By providing access to the material of glass, as well as the expertise and craftsmanship of glass specialists, doors are opened to new avenues of artistic investigation. What Are You Looking At? was carefully curated to feature work from a wide spectrum of artists -- including conceptual installation and object makers, to the designers of functional furnishing and fantastical fashion accessories -- each of whom come to the material with a wide range of intention.

"Partnerships like this joint residency between Pilchuck and the Museum of Glass have helped expand the glass family by pulling in wonderful weirdos from across the creative spectrum," said Benjamin Wright, Artistic Director at Pilchuck Glass School. "We hope that by presenting some outrageous outliers, this exhibition sparks imaginations about where glass could go in the next 50 years and inspires audiences and artists to add their voices to the chorus."

The exhibition is on view at Museum of Glass through fall 2022. Educational programming related to *What Are You Looking At?* kicks off on October 17 with a <u>Conversation with the Curators</u>, held in collaboration with <u>Refract: The Seattle Glass Experience</u>. A discussion series, <u>What Are You Talking About?</u>, with artists featured in the exhibition also beings in October. Tune in on Facebook Live for the kick-off on October 21 with Joe Feddersen.





Jamex de la Torre (Mexican and American, born 1960) Einar de la Torre (Mexican and American, born 1963) Game Warden, 2016 Blown glass, resin base, mixed media 24 5/8 x 13 x 8 1/2 in. (62.5 x 33 x 21.6 cm) Courtesy of the artists and Koplin Del Rio Gallery, Seattle Jamex de la Torre (Mexican and American, born 1960), Einar de la Torre (Mexican and American, born 1963) Frax Licker, made at Museum of Glass in 2017 Blown glass; 24 5/8 x 13 x 8 1/2 in. Collection of Museum of Glass, gift of the artists Photo by Duncan Price





Joe Feddersen (American, born 1953) Wilderness, made at Museum of Glass in 2005 Blown glass $20 \times 19 \times 13$ 1/2 in. Collection of Museum of Glass, gift of the artist

Joe Feddersen (American, born 1953) Charmed – Canoe Journey, 2012–2021 Fused glass Overall: 132 × 132 × 6 in.

Courtesy of Froelick Gallery, Portland

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.

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