



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Tim Butler, Marketing and Communications Director

253.284.4732

tbutler@museumofglass.org

MUSEUM OF GLASS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF IGNITING CREATIVITY, FUELING DISCOVERY, AND ENRICHING LIVES AT ANNUAL RED HOT AUCTION & GALA



Tacoma, WA – On Saturday, September 24, Museum of Glass welcomed nearly 200 guests at their Red Hot Auction & Gala to celebrate 20 years of glass and glassmaking in downtown Tacoma. The evening was a sold-out gathering in support of glass artists and Museum of Glass programming and exhibitions.

After two decades as a cultural hub in Tacoma and the Puget Sound region, Museum of Glass celebrates its legacy. The Museum has established a reputation for hosting impactful and engaging artist residencies, organizing and exhibiting nationally traveling exhibitions, and creating unique programs for visitors. Executive Director Debbie Lenk commented on this milestone.

“The evening was an unforgettable celebration of 20 years at the Museum. We were thrilled to honor our founders – Dale Chihuly, George F. Russell, Jr., and the late Dr. Philip Phibbs, individuals of uncommon dedication who have had an immeasurable impact on Tacoma and its residents. We also thank our sponsors and donating artists who support Museum of Glass, helping to ensure the organization shapes the future of glass for the next 20 years.”

Highlights of the event included the live and silent auctions, which featured works by 55 glass artists, including Lino Tagliapietra, Preston Singletary, and Nancy Callan. Additionally, the Museum Hot Shop Team produced signature goblets and decanters for the event — hand-blown, bold, and vibrant designs symbolic of the artistic energy of the past 20 years and of the Museum’s excitement for the future.

The Museum also honored three glass artists with its Coney Awards. The People’s Choice Award went to Eileen Lagasse, while Sarah Gilbert took home the Artist’s Choice Award. Grand Prize went to Katherine Gray for her piece *Iridescent Entity - Bowl*. All artists will receive a one-week residency in the Museum of Glass Hot Shop.



"There are so many to thank for the success of Red Hot, but without the generosity and support of the artist community, Red Hot would not be possible. The Coney Awards are the Museum's way of honoring the artists who donated their work to our silent and live auctions. It's particularly exciting that all three Coney Award winners are women this year, given that glassblowing is a historically male-dominated art form," said Event Director Hilary Conner.

The evening concluded with an after party in the Museum's Hot Shop with the Red Hot 2022 Featured Artist, Tacoma's own Trenton Quiocho. The *Blown Away* contestant created one of his signature *Rooster* pieces, which was auctioned live off the pipe.



Photos by Pavel Verbovski

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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.

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.
- Approximately 40% of visitors attend free of charge.
- 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, 10am - 8pm.

Admission: \$18 - Adults; \$16 - Seniors (65+)/College Students (18+)/Military (Active and Veteran); \$10 - Children (6–18); Free - Children (under 6); Free - Museum Members; \$1/person; \$2/family - EBT Cardholders