



**Bergstrom-Mahler
Museum of Glass
Annual Report 2019**

Dear Members:

Sometimes celebrating a landmark, like an anniversary, provides an opportunity to examine not only what has transpired, but also look at the road ahead. This past year we sought to assess museum needs within the community and how museums, as well as the arts, can play an important role.

This cannot happen without a talented staff, a loyal volunteer force and a committed board of directors. I would like to honor those people who have helped positively position the museum for the future. Two board members made significant contributions financially and strategically during their tenure. David Woods passed away in April. He served on the museum board of directors from 2011 to 2019. During this period he helped establish and served on a National Advisory Committee of glass artists, collectors and gallerists who helped promote the museum glass initiatives.

Mike Van Asten stepped down as board president after three years in that role, and a total of seven years of board service. He assumed the President's role when asked to fill a time of need. His leadership and commitment supported new friend-raising events and initiatives. He also drove the investigation of a feasibility study to expand the museum in another location. These individuals guided the museum through growth in programming, expanded opportunities addressing the international glass audiences, and examined the impact of such for the museum long term. Their dedication has helped Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass achieve a more prominent position within the national and international glass arena.

As the museum moves forward, it is imperative to continue to build new audiences and focus on relevant programs that blend this national visibility with developments that also engage the local community through some creative collaborative partnerships.

As a glass artist and a board member involved for many years, I understand the work it takes to build these relationships that are key to strengthening the museum for the future. On behalf the Board of Directors of Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, I would like to recognize the commitment both of these individuals made and thank Mike Van Asten for his seven years of service with these last three as president.

Through the efforts of a dedicated staff and a committed board of directors, the museum will be poised to serve the community through art for the next 60 years.

Michael O. Meilahn
President

Museums Need to Reinvent and Re-imagine Themselves to Stay Relevant

On April 5, 2019, Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass (BMMOG) turned 60. By that time, it was already shaping up to be a pivotal year and a year of reflection. In fall of 2018, the museum board of directors engaged McDonald Schaefer Group to conduct a study to build a new larger museum with expanded educational offerings. We hoped to capitalize on our strengths in the glass arena in the downtown area. We learned we must reinvent.

Museums are repositioning and re-imagining themselves in their communities to remain relevant. They flow from exhibition temples to spaces of social engagement to neutral platforms for community discourse. They present contemporary artists as messengers. Artists create powerful messages and glass is a medium that readily conveys metaphors that we find applicable to community concerns. This year, we attempted to find that intersection where art addressed local and national concerns. One of our exhibitions examined women's issues that ranged from women's roles and identity to climate change through the work of nine women glass artists. Sharper Edges: Women Working on the Edge of Glass also included related programming designed to empower young women by introducing them to successful artists.

By launching the exhibition Reflecting Perspectives: Artists Confront Issues of Diversity and Inclusion, you accepted yet another plateau recognizing the changes in the world around us. This exhibition took a close look at issues of racial bias, gender bias, cultural stereotyping and environmental disregard. You allowed us to risk sharing these voices, and the community responded with a thank you.

Art has shaped BMMOG's world and work over the last 60 years with glass as our cutting edge, and you as members who have come right along with us. The collections, programming and educational outreach continue to grow, so we can engage new regional audiences, as well as nurture national glass collectors like the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass. Museum growth has supported local economic growth and a creative community.

During this 60th year, various community engagement opportunities continue to examine these transitions and trends. Through the newly launched SPARK program, an initiative for those in the early stages of cognitive change and their care partners; through extensive work and development of the collections; hands-on learning in the glass studio; or unique work for sale in the shop, this invested team at your museum has shaped BMMOG to be place for visitor engagement and learning, as we see the next 60 years unfold.

Your vigilance, tolerance, encouragement and support have helped this museum team remain nimble, take a few risks, expand relationships and shape a new vision. We are grateful to you as our partners in exploring new possibilities together. Thank you.

Jan Mirenda Smith
Executive Director

Exhibitions

Sharper Edges: Women Working on the Edge of Glass

November 15, 2018 — February 17, 2019

Women are a formidable force in the growth of contemporary studio glass, despite the challenges they face receiving a level of recognition their male counterparts enjoy. This exhibit examined select female artists speaking with distinct viewpoints on social issues of politics, gender biases, stereotypes, and environmental concerns. Contemporary artists on view included the grande dame of contemporary studio glass, Audrey Handler, as well as Susan Taylor Glasgow, Beth Lipman, Lisa Koch, Stephanie Trenchard, Carmen Lozar, Kristin Thielking, Deanna Clayton, and Lisa Beth Robinson.



Reflecting Perspectives: Artists Confront Issues of Diversity and Inclusion

April 18 — September 22, 2019

The Reflecting Perspectives exhibition focused on how artists use the power of their art to promote diversity and inclusion. The complex social, cultural, and environmental challenges shaping our global landscape inform the artists' work and provided a backdrop for advancing dialogue in these areas.

The exhibit included the work of Joyce J. Scott, Tim Tate, Helen Lee, Pearl Dick, Raven Skyriver, Patrick Wadley, and John Moran, as well as the collaborative work of Preston Singletary and Marcus Amerman, and brothers Einar and Jamex De La Torre.



Education

Area High School Students Work in Glass

The Fox Valley Area High School Glass Exhibition at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass was on view for the month of March to showcase talented young area artists during Youth Art Month. Students from Appleton East, Appleton North, Berlin, Neenah, New London, Menasha, Omro, St. Mary Catholic, and Valders participated.

Throughout the months of January and February, students worked in The Glass Studio with artists Sara Rezin, Beth Wenger Johnstone, and Taylor Moeller-Roy creating objects using flame working techniques to make beads. Students experimented with a variety of fused glass methods. The majority of the works exhibited were created during these workshops.



Lessons in Being Women Through Glass

With visiting glass artist Deanna Clayton, tween girls from Boys and Girls Club in Menasha chatted about what it means to be a woman. As their conversation flowed toward the persona of Mother Nature, the young ladies planned their own pate de verre, or glass paste, sculptures with themes that empower them.

The young women spent an afternoon at the museum viewing the Sharper Edges exhibit. They learned about Clayton's work in the pate de verre technique and heard her point of view in the creation of her sculptures of women.

This event was made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region and the Les and Dar Stumpf Family Fund.

Visionary Artist Joyce J. Scott Visits During the Reflecting Perspectives Exhibit

MacArthur Foundation Fellow and Smithsonian Visionary Artist Joyce J. Scott visited the museum during the Reflecting Perspectives exhibit to sprinkle zesty wisdom on our understanding of the work on view. Dr. Scott is a world-renowned artist who works in fiber, beads and glass. Using family stories, life experiences, and a calling to advocate for social justice, she weaves stories of human happiness and horror throughout her work. She exhibited five pieces in the exhibit: Harriet's Rifle 2, 2018, Lynched Tree, 2011, Man Eating Watermelon, 1986, War Woman I, 2014, and Buddha (Earth) 2013.

She presented at several venues in the community, including Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Lawrence University, an evening with collectors from the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, and a fundraising event, gallery talk and studio demonstration at the museum.



Community

Art After Dark Scorches Attendance Records

To celebrate the Summer Solstice, the museum staff brought fire and modern dance to the lakeside lawn for Art After Dark. Nearly 850 people visited the museum that evening, viewing the Reflecting Perspectives exhibit, making paper lanterns and watching the lawn performances. Art After Dark events occur on select Thursdays throughout the year. Other popular themes in FY 2019 included a December Festivus event as an antidote to holiday stress and a Naughty Bits tour of the collection in February. Each event brought new visitors and new fans to the museum.



SPARK! Sessions Lighten Days for People with Memory Loss

June brought warmer temperatures and a warm, welcoming space for people experiencing cognitive changes and their care partners. Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass officially became part of the SPARK! Alliance of museums and cultural organizations in Wisconsin and Minnesota with specially trained staff who offer programs to the community. This program is made possible by a grant from Bader Philanthropies.



Jim Morgenstern, Volunteer

After moving to Neenah in 1981 to take a job with Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Jim Morgenstern first volunteered at the museum in 1995. Serving on the board of directors from then until 2003, he held the office of president from 1996-97. That's quite a commitment from a person who, when he first heard about the museum, thought paperweights were silly.

"Of course, that perspective changed quickly once I got to know more about the museum and its collection. It's been fun getting to know the great staff that we have, and I've enjoyed learning more about glass art," Jim admits.



Jim has since traded his directorship for a position in The Museum Shop where his favorite part of his continued involvement is working with customers.

Outside the museum, making music is a favorite activity for Jim. He is an active musician, playing trombone and euphonium in the Fox Valley Concert Band, electric upright bass in the Neenah Ambassadors Big Band, bass guitar in the band Hard Drive and guitar (and occasionally mandolin and banjo) in his church band. His greatest loves, however, are his wife, Connie, daughters, Elizabeth and Kristin, and grandchildren Eddie and Edith.



Select Acquisitions



Johne Parsley, Paperweight, 1987. Gift of Gary and Marge McClanahan; Audrey Handler and John Martner, The Pear in a Cherry Chair, 2018. Museum purchase with gift funds from David Woods; Susan Taylor Glasgow, Eve's Penance, 2005. Museum purchase with gift support from the Betty Smith Memorial Fund and contributions from Fred and Sharon Schomer, Bonnie Marx, and Bud and Libby Hoffman; Beth Lipman, Fruit and Cullet Centerpiece, 2011. Gift of Heller Gallery NYC.

Accessions

Gary and Marge McClanahan have provided exceedingly generous support for Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass financially, in-kind, and with gifts from their personal paperweight collection. The results of this longstanding relationship can be seen once again this year through gifts of antique and modern paperweights, hand selected by the museum executive director in keeping with their wishes to maintain this stellar collection. We are extremely grateful to all of these generous contributors, for this is how museums share incredible objects with the public.

Gifts of Gary and Marge McClanahan

Johne Parsley and Perthshire Paperweights,
Perthshire/Parsley Pedestal, 1993
Compagnie des Cristalleries de Saint Louis, Paperweight
Val Saint Lambert, Paperweight, 1850-1900
Compagnie des Verreries et Cristalleries de Baccarat, Paperweight
Cristallerie de Pantin, Paperweight
Compagnie des Cristalleries de Saint Louis, Paperweight, 1848
Compagnie des Cristalleries de Saint Louis, Paperweight
New England Glass Company, Paperweight
New England Glass Company, Yellow Leaf Cross Paperweight
Cristallerie de Clichy, Paperweight (8)
Cristallerie de Clichy, Miniature Bird Paperweight
Cristallerie de Clichy, Trefoil Garland Paperweight
Cristallerie de Clichy, Medium Millefiori Paperweight
Travis Chaudoir, Hummingbird Paperweight, 2009
Gordon Smith, Strawberries Paperweight, 1996
Loren Stump, Paperweight, 1999
Johne Parsley, Paperweight, 1987
Parabelle Glass, Triple Stack Paperweight, 1998
James Kontes and Nontas Kontes, Paperweight Basket
Perthshire Paperweights, Scent Bottle with Stopper, 1984-1985
Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1989
Perthshire Paperweights, Large Millefiori Paperweight, 1989
Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1989
Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1990
Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1991
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Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1994
Perthshire Paperweights, Small Millefiori Paperweight, 1995
Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1995
Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1997
Perthshire Paperweights, Magnum Millefiori Paperweight, 1999
Perthshire Paperweights, Large Millefiori Paperweight, 2000
Perthshire Paperweights, Large Millefiori Paperweight, 2001

Daum Freres, Untitled Art Deco Vase, ca. 1930. Gift of David Huchthausen
Beth Lipman, Fruit and Cullet Centerpiece, 2011. Gift of Heller Gallery NYC
Susan Taylor Glasgow, Eve's Penance, 2005. Museum purchase with gift support from the Betty Smith Memorial Fund and contributions from Fred and Sharon Schomer, Bonnie Marx and Bud and Libby Hoffman
Audrey Handler and John Martner, The Pear in a Cherry Chair, 2018. Museum purchase with gift funds from David Woods
Deanna Clayton, Scarred, 2015. Museum purchase with gift funds from the Family of Leon DeJongh
Jaromir Rybak, Untitled, 2001. Gift of Barry and Donna Rice
Stephanie Trenchard, Four Artists, 2015. Museum purchase with gift funds from the Family of Leon DeJongh
Kristin Thielking, Wrecked 2, 2018. Museum purchase with gift funds from the Marion Shepard Memorial Fund
Lisa Koch, Pale Blue Dot. Museum Purchase with gift funds from the Marjorie Bergstrom Moore Memorial Fund
Mark Peiser, Sunset Returning from Atlanta, 1990. Gift from the Estate of Wayne and Jean Roper
Mary Shaffer, Tool Box, 1997. Gift of Bruce and Judy Bendoff
Marvin Lipofsky, Czech Flowers, 1991 - 1992. Gift of Bruce and Judy Bendoff
Unknown maker, Cranberry Opalescent Epergne, 1870-1890. Gift in Memory of Marilyn A. Rogge
Toland Sand, Light Wedge, 2002. Gift of Gerald Silverstein and Bob Zimmerman

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Bruce and Judy Bendoff Contemporary Glass Collectors

Bruce and Judy Bendoff first became fans of Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass many years ago when they would stop to visit on their way to Door County. Oftentimes, they would meet their friends, Judy and Rick Conne, from Madison, as a convenient meeting spot. They came to love the museum - its history, the collections, and the exhibitions.

“Our first impression was that so much old and new was contained and so well organized in a small structure,” the Bendoffs said.

They became better acquainted with the museum through executive director, Jan Miranda Smith, who began visits to request loans for exhibitions. One of their first loans was a Fritz Dreisbach Mongo vase. When they toured with the Midwest Contemporary Glass Art Group and saw their piece exhibited so beautifully at the museum, they realized it looked much better professionally displayed than it did in their home. They were moved to promise to gift the piece to the museum in the near future, a promise that was fulfilled

in 2015, with other subsequent gifts.

“Whenever we visit and see a piece from our collection, we are proud to have some involvement in this collector and museum relationship. Our pieces are always wonderfully displayed and know that we are fulfilling our glass group's mission of putting glass before the public,” they said.

Since selling their home and splitting their collection between Naples, FL and Highland Park, IL,

they have gifted additional pieces. Their relationship with the museum through Jan and the staff has been one of valued friendship and respect.

The Bendoffs explain, “We have been enriched as collectors by our relationship to the museum through gifting and we would encourage other collectors to do so as well. The joy we experience and the responsible easy way in which business is handled at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass will make other collectors happy with the experience.”



Roger and Lynn Van Vreede, Patrons of the Arts

Lynn and Roger Van Vreede became active supporters of Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass because they believe the Arts are a basic need. "We believe that without the Arts the world would be a very different place, not one that we would choose to live in," they explained.

"Following the progression of growth and change in the organization, it has been a privilege to become involved financially, in addition to participating in programs and events. We are happy to support not only exceptional glass exhibits but also education for children and adults alike," they continued.

The Van Vreedes expect Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass to continue its evolution and want to be a part of it. "After traveling to museums around the world, we realize what a gem we have right here in Neenah, WI. We encourage others that want to make a difference in their community to get involved. Working together we can sustain a world-class glass museum that displays glass from the past and reaches into the future of modern glass."



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Rosann Milius, Member, Collector, Cheerleader

On lunch break walks through Riverside Park with coworkers 33 years ago, Rosann Milius discovered the treasure that is Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass. Visits to the museum became an escape from the stress of corporate life into the relaxing world of art, and eventually into collecting glass art and even volunteering in The Museum Shop.

In 1997, now completely enthralled with glass, Rosann became president of the newly formed Evangeline Bergstrom Paperweight Collectors Group promoting the art of small scale glass sculptures, historically referred to as paperweights.

“Glass and the artists that create with it never cease to amaze me with countless techniques and skills needed to express their ideas and share their creativity. I’m fascinated to look into the depths of their work, knowing and appreciating the skilled artistic hands that were needed to create it,” she said.

As her passion for Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass grew, she served on the board of directors from 2000-2009. She was vice president from 2004-2006 and President from 2006-2008, which was highlighted by the museum being the host institution for the International Paperweight Collectors Association, Inc. convention in 2005.

Rosann continues her involvement with the museum because she feels the organization is an extra-special gift to both the local and worldwide community. She believes the education programs, exhibits, and events continue to be fresh and inspiring.

“Watching the wonder and awe in children’s eyes or the moments of peace as others escape the stress from the outside world, even if only for a brief amount of time is what inspires me to continue to support this treasure that graces our world. By giving gifts of patronage, financial, and art glass donations I hope to play a role to ensure the museum’s longevity for generations to come,” she explains.



Individual Level, continued

Jason Olson
Susan Otto
Joseph Pabst
Jae Rasmussen
Kolleen Rathburn
Pam Reinhold
Dana Reneau
Lynn Ann Sauby
Jennifer Schneider
Mary Schulz
Cathy Sebrowski
Jennifer Seibold
Mrs. Ashlee Sell
Brian Skelton
Karla Spinks
Andrew Standiford
Jenny Staples
Michael Steffen
Kevin Stier
Terry Sutter
Denise Tiller
James Turner
Barbara Uehling
Lynde Uihlein
Carrie Van Ryzin
Ms. Mary Jane Waite
Laura Wallander
Bridget Welch
Kay J. Wisnefske
Karla Wissing
Kathleen Wollersheim
Mrs. David Yoseloff

Senior

Carolyn Aita
Donna Jean Atassi
Steve Ballard
Mr. William Banks
Mrs. Marion Bates
Mrs. Alice Bauer
Carolyn Bauer
Marjorie Becker
Susan Blair
Jill Botvinik
Sharon Bowen
Amy Brazale
Sharon Brooker
Sally Brotski
Carolynn Brown-Schoening
Mary Clauss
Judy Coenen-Eichhorn
Jeannine Cook
Veronica Crane
Sharon Crowson
Jan De Keyser
Anne Gay Dickson
Gail Dolan
Ms. Miriam Douglass
Paul Dunlop
Philip Edelman
Diane Eparvier
Glenn Erdmann
Helen M. Evans
Kristin Falk
Mary Jo Feldmann
Mary Florek

Donald Formigli
Steve Foster
Peggy Galloway
Cindee Garnett
Jill Geniesse
Elizabeth Gibson
John Gillen
Gloria Grandone
Christine Grunwald
June Grutza
Mary Guhl
Kathleen Hamilton
Linda Heckel
Kendra Heckmann
Kay Hendrickson
Mildred Herder
Richard Hughes
Mary A. Hunsaker
Mrs. Jane Jonscher
Mary Jean Kasper
Margaret Kersten
Lee Kralovec
Joanne La Pome
James Lange
Julia Lange
Alan Lareau
Lynne Lenius
Marianne Levin
Joan Lindner
Shari Lloyd
Sherry Lloyd
Margaret Lorenz
Paul McAvoy
Patricia Meier

Laurie Ann Meyer
Mrs. Lorice Meyer
Stefanie Moritz
Kathleen Moyer
Judith Mueller
Victoria Mulder
Maureen Mullally
Anne Neer
Beth Olson
Charlotte Olson
Nancy Ann Olsta
Mrs. Jean Orbison
Joyce Patton
Mary Jo Pauly
Eugene Peiter
Mary Peterson
Kristine Pierce
Patricia L. Pierce
William Pitt
Ms. Elizabeth Pitz
Mary Poulson
David Price
Michael Puls
Peg Rasmussen
Karla Repta
Cynthia A. Rieck
Greta Rogers
Richard Rubinstein
Caroline Rucker
Ellyn Sachs
Mae Sanford
Teresa Schulz
Jane Shipman
Gerald Silverstein

Edwin Simon
Sally Simon
Donna Smith
Marcella Staffeld
Dr. Joan Naomi Steiner
Mrs. Clariss J. Techlow
Dr. Helen Raye Thrasher
Sandra Torrielli
Sue Vine
Linda Voss
Michael Wegner
Mary Jo Weidert
Ann Wenzel
Mary Jo Widener
Mrs. Susan Wilson
Susan Wood
Mory Wrase
Ann Zarnoth
Mrs. Bonita Zdrale
Dr. Jeffrey Zdrale
Robert Zimmerman

In Memoriam

Donna Bailey
Robert Di Renzo
Sharon Fenlon
Karl and Dorothy Forsgren
Rev. Donald F. Hetzler
Gareth Jones
Robert Lieber
Lillian Renner
Bob Rosenak
David H. Woods



In Memoriam

David Woods was a member of Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass Board of Directors since 2011. He passed away on April 26th at his Appleton home. David was an avid collector of many things, including glass and he quickly became an enthusiastic advocate and patron. He served on BMMOG's Glass Advisory Council and as Vice President of the museum board, but stepped down to assist another nonprofit. A David Woods Memorial Scholarship fund has been established to enable low income youth participation in a museum art activity.

Mission

Engage, Excite and Educate our regional and global audiences using our world renowned glass paperweights, glass collections and changing exhibitions.

Vision

The Place for Exciting Discoveries in Glass!



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