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Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, Offers Glass Exhibit During WNC's Summer of Glass

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, is presenting *Glass Catalyst: Littleton's Legacy in Contemporary Sculpture*, a new exhibition of glass sculpture, on view at the WCU Fine Art Museum at Bardo Arts Center, through Dec. 7, 2018.

Celebrating the efforts of Harvey Littleton, one of the greatest proponents of using glass as an expressive medium, the exhibition explores the work of contemporary artists concentrating in glass and how they are building off the foundations laid by Littleton during the early years of the Studio Glass Movement. A key work in the exhibition will be a new acquisition to the Museum's collection: a glass sculpture by Harvey Littleton entitled *Terracotta Arc*.



Alex Bernstein, "Aqua Fin", cast and cut glass, fused steel, 21 x 21 x 2.75 inches, photographed by Steve Mann

novation, and even knitters will especially enjoy this display of works ranging from cast figures to blown glass to delicate lamp-worked forms.

The majority of the artists in the exhibition represent a younger generation of glass sculptors who did not directly work with or study under Littleton, yet each of them, like Littleton, works glass to its fullest potential by creatively expanding the medium. All of the artists represented in the exhibition take a conceptual approach to their work, ushering glass beyond the functional realm where its traditional roots lie. Carol Milne, for example, constructs intricate networks of knitted glass that symbolize social structures and speak to the power of solidarity, while Hayden Wilson's *Drones* are giant "paper" airplanes fashioned in glass that evoke childhood memories of play and also look critically at episodes of violence in our culture.

Born to a physicist who worked at Corning Glass Works, Harvey Littleton encountered glass in a factory setting at an early age. Believing that glass had creative potential outside its applications in industry, Littleton set out to make it possible for artists to experiment with

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Hayden Wilson, "Drones", 2017, kiln-formed glass with glass powder prints, 4 feet x 8 feet x 12 inches, photographed by Steve Mann

Donated by the Littleton Family in honor of WCU Professor Emeritus Joan Falconer Byrd, this sculpture serves as a focal point in the exhibition and a reminder of how Littleton's impact reverberates through the generations. Artists featured in the exhibition include: Alex Bernstein, Carol Milne, Hayden Wilson, Matt Eskuche, Shane Fero, Robert Burch, Carmen Lozar, Carole Frève, Einar and Jamex de la Torre, Shayna Leib, and Dean Allison. Glass enthusiasts, sculptors, lovers of in-

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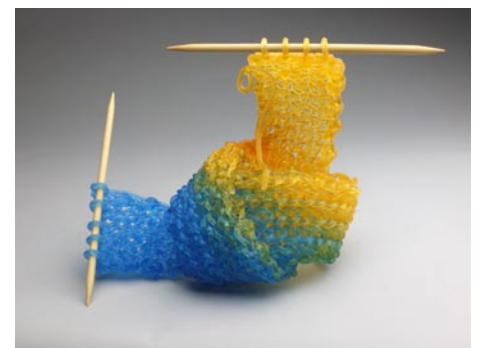
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glass in their individual studios. He built a small-scale furnace and other equipment that could be used for blowing glass. This initial experimentation inspired Littleton to share his findings with others.

In 1962, Littleton led a watershed glass workshop at the Toledo Museum of Art that would eventually spark the creation of glass programs at universities, craft schools, and art centers throughout the world. He is often credited with making information about glass widely available. Coming out of an era when glass techniques and formulas were concentrated in Europe and largely kept secret, Littleton took a democratic, and arguably American, approach to his art form by sharing ideas and techniques freely amongst a community of interested artists. His efforts led to the elevation of glass as an art form and the creation of a viable market for artists working in glass.

Glass Catalyst is being held as part of the Summer of Glass initiative, which is happening in conjunction with the Dale Chihuly exhibition at Biltmore Estate



Carol Milne, "Knit Knot", 2014, kiln-cast lead crystal knitted glass and needles, 10 x 15 x 8 inches, Collection of the Asheville Art Museum, image courtesy of the Artist

in Asheville. As part of the initiative, organizations throughout the Western North Carolina region will be holding exhibitions, tours, workshops, and events centered on glass.

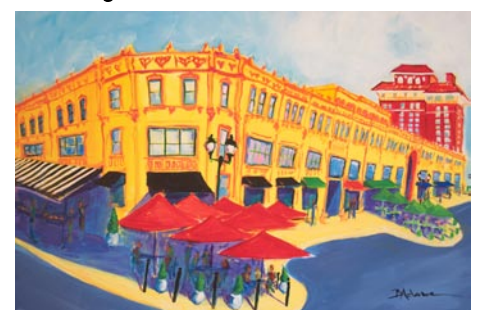
For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/227-2787 or visit (www.bardoartscenter.wcu.edu).

Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Bee Adams

Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Bright & Bold*, featuring works by Bee Adams, on view from July 1 - 31, 2018. A reception will be held on July 6, from 5-8pm.

The exhibition will feature the work of Bee Adams, whose dynamic, colorful paintings simultaneously tease and delight the eye.

From iconic local landmarks to tobacco barns, florals, and abstracts, the artist creates signature works that are masterfully executed in exuberant colors. "I do love color and use it freely in my paintings. I like keeping my paintings fresh and exciting and use a variety of mediums in that process," she says. Whatever her subject, she is fearless in her interpretations. "My paintings aren't careful architectural renderings, but vibrant celebrations that allow the viewer to encounter the familiar anew."



Work by Bee Adams

Prior to relocating to Asheville six years ago, Adams was active in the Denver art scene for over 40 years, including solo showings at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder. She also lived in Brussels where she "took particular joy in capturing the intricate buildings

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