

Arizona Glass Alliance

Asheville Glass Art Tour – Itinerary

October 12 – 16th, 2011

Wednesday, October 12

Asheville

Independent arrivals in Asheville, North Carolina and check-in to the Inn on Biltmore Estate. This elegant hotel is nestled inside the magnificent rolling hills and green parklands of the historic **Biltmore Estate**.

**Please plan your arrival no later than 5:00 p.m.*

The program begins with a late-afternoon gathering of the group in the hotel for introductions, and a brief rundown of the tour.

At this event **Ruth Summers**, long time gallery owner and former Director of the **Southern Highlands Craft Council**, will give a short talk about the area's craft aesthetic.

Our group "**Welcome Dinner**" will follow in one of the hotel's dining rooms. (D)

Thursday, October 13

Asheville

We start our art explorations with "Free Time" to shop at the **Biltmore Village!**

A "must" to visit in Asheville is **New Morning Gallery**. Owned by **John Cram** of *Blue Spiral 1* fame, this gallery shows an array of "Art for Living" decorative furniture and functional crafts.

Don't miss **Matt Chamber's Bellagio Gallery-Wearable Art.**, a place to see wonderful textiles used in creative designs. There are amazing fabrics used to make stunning clothing, unusual jewelry pieces, and accessories from selected artists. Ladies, this is a fun place to play!

Going into the heart of downtown Asheville, we find the work-space of noted glass artist **Alex Bernstein**. Having grown up at the "pipe" in his parent's, **William & Katherine Bernstein Glass Studio**, he is now a world-class, glass artist in his own right.

Mr. Bernstein has created a large assemblage of technically different styled works. Most recently he is casting glass in bold rich colors, and cold working textures by sandblasting the surfaces of both the glass and metal onto his forms. Alex

will explain his creative processes during a specially planned exhibition.

A Group Luncheon is included at the charming **Rezaz Mediterranean Cuisine**.

Our group has been invited to a reception at the city's premier gallery, Blue Spiral 1 Gallery. Director/Owner **Jon Cram** will welcome us to this large-scale 15,000 square foot facility. We will be able to wander through the three levels of exhibit space, to view artwork by over 25 regional artists working in ceramics, wood, basketry, glass and paintings.

No tour of Asheville is complete without a visit to the historic **Biltmore Estate**.

Our first stop on the estate is at the **Antler Hill Village-Legacy Theatre**. Here we will view the "**Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass**". This impressive private collection contains 44 pieces of stained glass, colorful lamps and decorated objects, plus 8 window murals all designed by the famous artist **Louis Comfort Tiffany**. (1848-1933)

Moving around the park grounds, our coach driver will deposit us at the regal **Biltmore Estate House**.

This magnificent stately mansion was the family home of **George** and **Edith Vanderbilt** and designed by **Richard Morris Hunt**. Started in 1895, this is one of the largest undertakings in American residential architecture.

The estate is 125,000 acres of garden and parklands. Based on 3 French Chateaux built in the 16th century, this opulent home boasts 4 acres of floor space, 250 Rooms, 34 bedrooms, 43 bathrooms and 65 fireplaces! We will be escorted through this home with a private Biltmore guide.

Our coach transfers us back to the hotel to relax before Dinner, which is on your own tonight.

There are 8 dining options and a winery on the estate, and a complimentary shuttle bus that can move you around the grounds. (L)

Friday, October 14

Penland

We are off early this morning to climb into the mountains, to the arts region near *Spruce Pine*.

Our first stop of the day is the innovative “green” project called the **EnergyXChange**. This non-profit Arts / Gardening Institution was built to house a glassblowing studio, pottery studio, a business center, greenhouses, and a gallery - all run by the methane gas transformed from a defunct landfill. The glass furnace and kilns are non-polluting, eliminating the need for fossil fuels.

We circle the **Penland School of Craft** to follow the trail to the studio of glass flame-worker **Shane Fero**. Shane is the current President of *The Glass Art Society*, and involved in all things glass.

Mr. Fero’s skillfully creates delicate birds, imaginative fantasy figures, and interesting collage boxes, by working glass rods by hand, in front of a flaming torch. A demonstration is planned.

Across the road from Shane’s studio is **Penland School of Crafts**. This prestigious school, founded in 1929 to help preserve mountain crafts offers classes in metallurgy, ceramics, glass, printmaking, textiles, woodworking and drawing.

Kathryn Gremley, Director of the **Penland Gallery** will meet and walk us through the gallery, mentioning some important artists. From Folk Art to Contemporary pieces, we will find a large assortment of quality regional art to view at the extensive **Penland Gallery**.

A Boxed Lunch from **DT’s Blue Ridge Café** will be provided. We are able to use the tables scattered on the large covered porch outside of the galley, to have our lunch.

Since 1967 **Mark Peiser** has been involved with the *Studio Glass Movement*. For years he experimented with the properties, pushing the limits of hot glass. He created forms with colorful lusters and was a pioneer in formulating and melting his own glass “frit”.

Early works include “*Paperweight Vases*”, floral and woodland landscapes encased in layers of clear glass. “*Innerspace Pieces*”, a series of cut and polished prismatic clear glass sculptures followed. Recent series have Mr. Peiser working

on “*Forms of Consciousness*,” a grouping of translucent glass cast into flowing forms.

Mark will speak about his art background and inspirations and show us some of his archive pieces and new works.

Nearby we find the dual studios of husband and wife artists **Pablo De Soto** and **Cristina Cordova**. These artists work in their own style of art, but with separate mediums and scopes.

Internationally known for her exciting ceramic pieces, Cristina will explain her art background and the processes she uses to create her one-of-a-kind sculptures. Her work shows intense attention to detail, as she melds ancient and modern ideas with human and animal forms to develop other-worldly figures.

Pablo designs unusually formed glass silhouettes that are then deeply carved. He also has a line of utilitarian lighting pieces.

We return to Asheville and the hotel. Dinner is on your own this evening. (L)

Saturday, October 15

Penland

We start our day out of the city, by traveling north into the hills to meet with one of the most internationally respected artists working in basketry. **Billie Ruth Sudduth**’s hands are in perpetual motion, as she shapes the dampened reeds to make her basket forms. She is known for her tightly woven exaggerated shapes, and unique pattern designs of bold colors.

Just down the road and through the Hardee’s parking lot, we climb the hill, through the gate to the studio of **Rick** and **Valerie Beck**.

Rick is known for depicting everyday objects such as bolts, screws, tools and spoons and casting them in glass to mega-sizes. He takes mechanical objects and shows the unexpected beauty in line and detail. Rick is also working with cast large-scale figurative pieces.

As a team Rick and Valerie work in the graal technique to make objects that are blown glass, painted with bright enamel hues, and then encased with clear crystal.

We plan to have a Group Lunch at a local café.

Traveling on the winding roads to *Bakersville*, we find the small farmhouse home/studio of **Richard Ritter** and **Jan Williams**.

Introduced to blowing glass during studies in Detroit at the *Society of Arts & Crafts* (now the *College of Creative Studies*), Richard continued studying at *Penland* with many glass artists, one being **Richard Marquis**. His technical skill working the hot and cold murrini process increased, lead to his *Family Portrait* series.

As a long time teacher, Richard has continued to work with crystal, opal glass and murrini, developing his own color palette throughout his career.

In the past Mr. Ritter has been selected by **Mrs. Walter Mondale** for the honor of creating a set of 16 dessert plates for the *Permanent Collection* of the *Vice President's Residence*. He has had retrospective exhibitions, received many awards and honors, including being one of 70 artists invited to contribute work to the first permanent *White House Crafts Collection*.

Richard advises us that he has some great old stories to tell.

Our final visit of the day will be at the shared studio of husband and wife duo of **John Littleton** and **Kate Vogel**.

The two met while attending art classes at the *University of Wisconsin* where John's father, glass pioneer and "father" of the studio glass movement, **Harvey Littleton** had worked a decade before.

Partners in the creative process, they have developed into accomplished artists. The two have collaborated well with blown hot work, casting and pate-de-verre techniques.

Famous in the early years for their colorful bursting bags sculptures, they have moved on to using the human form. Faces, hands, orbs and blocks are now used to celebrate the variety of life experiences, from childhood to old age, strength and pain, into complex dramatic works.

A very special "**Farewell Dinner**" is in the works for our group. TBA

Return to Asheville and to the hotel. (L,D)

Sunday, October 16 **Departure**

We individually check-out of the hotel, reflect on all we have seen in this great "Arts" city, and say "Good Bye " to our traveling friends.

***Please Note: This itinerary is subject to substitutions, additions and changes due to re-confirmations of artist studios/galleries, etc. or any quality changes at venues. Be assured that any changes made, will be done to enhance the total program and to promote smooth operation of the tour.**

Tour Price including Hotel:

\$1399.00 per person double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$624.00

Deposit:

1. A Credit Card Number to be given by March 29th, 2011 to hold Tour Space and for

Hotel Deposit: \$160.00 per person
double occupancy
\$320.00 for Single Occupancy

***This deposit represents the non-refundable first night hotel stay. Credit card will not be charged until the minimum number of tour participants, which is 20, is reached. Credit card will be accepted by the Weiners on phone or by E-Mail.**

2. A Check upon announcement of tour operational minimum (20) is met for \$150.00 per person double occupancy / \$300.00 Single

3. Check for Tour Final Payment due by August 25th, 2011

All Checks payable to:

The Arizona Glass Alliance

Mailed to: **Fred Schomer**

12026 N. 118th Way Scottsdale, AZ 85259

Travel Insurance: is available and highly recommended at the time of deposit

Tour Development/Escorts:

Allan & Susan Weiner

Professional Travel, Inc.

6513 W. Behrend Drive Glendale, AZ 85308

Arizona Office Phone: 623-376-6557

E-Mail: alw@protrav.com or suew@protrav.com