

Amanda Simmons

ARTIST STATEMENT

I make kilnformed glass vessels, playing with gravity in the kiln. Manipulating mass, heat, colour and time, I aim to create complex, elusive work that has intense colour and pattern which reacts to the light it which it is placed. I mainly use opaque glass powders to construct my work because of their varying translucency as the form elongates during the firing process. I finish my pieces using many coldworking processes to shape and mark the glass, including sandblasting, hand lapping, diamond point and wheel cameo engraving.

And as ever, birds fly through my work as I live with them in the studio and my rural setting.

ARTIST BACKGROUND

Born Tunbridge Wells, England, UK

Currently Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, UK

Education/Training

- 2013 Sculptural Flameworking with Carrie Fertig, North Lands Creative Glass, Lybster, Scotland, UK
- 2008 Glass Engraving Masterclass with Jiri Hrcuba and April Surgent, North Lands Creative Glass, Lybster, Scotland, UK
- 2005 Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Studies – Glass and Architecture (Distinction), Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London
- 2004 BSc. (Honors), Clinical Sciences (Perfusion), King's College London
- 1996 BSc. (Honors), Biomedical Sciences (Pharmacology), King's College London

Professional Experience

Full-time self-employed artist (2005 – present)

- 2014 Instructor, Kilnformed Glass Vessels, North Lands Creative Glass, Lybster, Scotland, UK (and 2012)
- 2014 Instructor, Kilnformed Glass Vessels Masterclass, Warm Glass UK, Bristol, (and 2013, 2012)
- 2014 Presenter, The Lighthouse, Glasgow, Scotland, UK
- 2013 Presenter, Scotland: Crafting a Renaissance, SOFA Chicago panel discussion
- 2012 Instructor, Kilnformed Glass Vessels, Glass Forum, Averoy, Norway
- 2012 AA2A Artist Placement, National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland, UK
- 2012 Creative Business Advocate (Craft), Dumfries and Galloway Council, Scotland, UK
- 2011 Residency, In Place: Kilnformed Glass in Architecture, North Lands Creative Glass, Lybster, Scotland, UK

Selected Exhibitions

- 2016 *Accumulations*, Bullseye Resource Center New York Gallery, Mamaroneck
- 2016 *Naked Craft*, Art Gallery of Burlington, Ontario; Centre Materia, Quebec; Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Canada
- 2016 *Connections*, Contemporary Glass Society at The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2016 *Modern Masters*, Galerie Handwerk, International Trade Fair Munich, Germany
- 2015 *British Glass Biennale at the International Festival of Glass*, Glasshouse Arts Centre, Stourbridge, UK
- 2015 *Glass Weekend '15 with Morgan Glass Gallery*, Wheaton Arts New Jersey, USA
- 2015 *Modern Heritage Craft Project in collaboration with Spring Fling*, Designs Gallery, Scotland, UK
- 2015 *Essence*, London Glassblowing Gallery, London
- 2014 *Evolve 2014*, Bullseye Gallery, Portland, Oregon; Bullseye Resource Center Bay Area Gallery, Emeryville, California; Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pennsylvania; Bellevue Arts Museum, Washington
- 2014 *Uncommon Beauty*, Bullseye Resource Center New York Gallery, Mamaroneck
- 2014 COLLECT (Contemporary Applied Arts, London), Saatchi Gallery, London
- 2014 *Gravity*, The Gallery at London Glassblowing
- 2014 *Spring Fling Open Studios*, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, UK (and 2011-13, 2007-2009)
- 2014 *Coalesce*, The Gallery at London Glassblowing
- 2013 SOFA Chicago (Craft Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK)
- 2013 *Focus Show*, Contemporary Applied Arts, London
- 2012 *Emerge 2012*, Bullseye Gallery, Portland, Oregon
- 2011 COLLECT (Craft Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK), Saatchi Gallery, London

Awards, Honors & Grants

- 2013 Travel Grant, Creative Scotland
- 2013 Craft Maker Award, Creative Scotland & Dumfries and Galloway Council (and 2010)
- 2012 Finalist, *Emerge 2012*, Bullseye Glass Co., Portland, Oregon
- 2010 Gold Award Winner, Crafts Council and UK Trade and Investment Export Award 2010, Origin: The London Craft Fair
- 2010 Commendation, *Aesthetica Creative Works Competition*, *Aesthetica Magazine*
- 2010 Professional Development Grant, Creative Scotland

Selected Publications

- 2015 Waggoner, Shawn. "The Objects of our Affection." *Glass Art*, January/February 2015.
- 2012 Anderson, Laura. "Scotland: The High Road to Craft." *American Craft Magazine*, June/July 2012, Vol. 72, Issue 3.
- 2011 *Crafts Arts International*, Issue 82.
- 2010 Coffey, Yvonne. *Glass Jewellery*. London: A&C Black, 2010.