



The Works Launches Glass Studio Artist In Residency (AIR) Program

The Works is excited to announce its Glass Studio Artist In Residency (AIR) Program. The purpose of the AIR Program is to host experienced glass artists from diverse backgrounds, with varying craft expertise and showcase those talents in a hands-on teaching environment. The AIR Program is an exciting new way to operate The Works Glass Studio and showcases two talented glass artists per year in the studio. Each new artist will bring new classes, techniques, educational opportunities and glass artwork pieces to The Works and its visitors.

Each Artist In Residency will complete a rigorous interview process and be hand selected by The Works. The selected candidate will then be featured for a four-month period as The Works Artist In Residency. During the residency, the artist will conduct a variety of classes tailored to his/her specific glass blowing field of expertise, conduct glass blowing demonstrations and coordinate speaking engagements with local schools and universities to educate students on the art of glass blowing. The Artist In Residency will also produce and sign one of a kind glass pieces that will be for sale in The Works Gear Shop. The artist will also produce unique holiday and promotional pieces for several special events including HATSOFF! and Harvest Fest. Because each resident artist is respected in the glass world, these pieces will quickly become collector's items.

The AIR Program also ushers in a new operation schedule for The Works Glass Studio. In January, the Glass Studio will offer jewelry making and pottery classes taught by local artists. The months of February through May showcase the year's first Artist In Residency time period. The month of June will consist of glass classes and camps taught by special guest professional glass artists. July and August will serve as the Glass Studio's hiatus period when the studio will be deep cleaned, repairs made and inventory taken. This is an optimal time period for a hiatus due to sweltering temperatures in the Glass Studio during these months. The Glass Studio will re-open to the public in September by welcoming the year's second Artist In Residency, which will be at The Works through December.

The Works new Artist In Residency Program is an excellent opportunity to establish a new depth in our community in relation to the art of glass blowing. Through the introduction of two new glass artists each year, the community will reap the benefits of enriched class and program curriculum. The Works is confident that students of the Glass Studio will continue to build upon a strong foundation and appreciation of glass blowing and become the future of this beautiful and amazing form of artistry.

In an effort to readily answer as many questions about the new Artist In Residency Program as possible, please visit www.attheworks.org and click on the "Explore The Works" tab, then select "Glassblowing Studio". Here, you will find an operation schedule for the Glass Studio, a biography for the featured Artist In Residency and a general outline of the residency program. For additional information, please contact The Works at 740-349-9277.



Erinn Bessler: The Works Artist In Residency Biography

The Works is proud to introduce Erinn Bessler as its first Artist In Residency. Erinn has an extensive background in the art of glass blowing, leading instructional workshops and producing beautiful works of art glass for display and sale. Erinn is a 2009 graduate of Columbus College of Art and Design. She has received scholarships to study at The Corning Museum of Glass, Penland School of Crafts and Pilchuck Glass School. In 2009, she received an Honorable Mention in the AICUO Excellence in the Visual Arts Awards. Over the years, Erinn's work has been exhibited throughout Ohio.

Most recently, Erinn acted as the Lead Gaffer, Studio Manager and Instructor for Crystal Traditions located in Tiffin, Ohio. Crystal Traditions is a glass factory dedicated to keeping Tiffin's glass heritage alive through on-site demonstrations of glass blowing, hand cutting crystal and sand carving. At Crystal Traditions, Erinn produced art glass for the gallery, demonstrated and narrated the art of glass blowing to tourists, wrote class curricula and instructed introductory glassblowing workshops.

Prior to relocating to Tiffin, Erinn worked as a Gaffer for the Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus, Ohio and completed an internship at the Columbus Museum of Art. Erinn is also familiar with the Newark area. In 2009, she acted as a Preparator for The Works Museum where she assisted the Art Director with gallery exhibit preparation and catalogued various artifacts. Erinn's glass works have been featured in numerous exhibitions including the Tiffin Art Guild, Ohio Art League and Columbus College of Art and Design Student Show.

The Works is happy to welcome Erinn back to The Works as the first glass studio artist in the new Artist In Residency Program. The Works Artist In Residency Program will provide Erinn with a venue to share her expertise and teach aspiring glass artists, allowing them to pursue their passion for this beautiful art.

Erinn's Artist In Residency at The Works begins September 1 and continues through December 31. Her breathtaking Venetian inspired glass goblets will be a focal point at The Works HATSOFF! black tie affair on October 2. Erinn's glass work will also be featured in The Works Main Art Gallery from September 24 through November 6 along with several signed pieces being available for purchase in The Works Gift Shop during her residency period. For a complete listing of Erinn's glass blowing class offerings, visit The Works web site at www.attheworks.org.



Erinn Bessler

Featured Artist In Residency

September 1 through December 31, 2010



Above: Erinn Bessler works on her delicate craft of glass blowing as she crafts a beautiful handmade glass tumbler.



Top & Bottom Right: Pairs of tall and square handmade glass blown goblets crafted by Erinn Bessler. Each goblet showcases intricate detailing on the stem making the crafting of each piece extremely delicate. Elegant curves accentuate the beauty of the tall pair of goblets, while the symmetry of the square goblets have a contemporary flair.

Visit The Works to view more glass work by Erinn Bessler.