

Transformational Matter

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Letter from the GAS President

Pittsburgh, the site of the Glass Art Society's 37th Annual Conference is one of my favorite American cities. I have been visiting it for about ten years and every time I do, I am always surprised about its growth and transformation. It has a long history of glassmaking, industrial and commercial, but now in recent years has carved a significant niche in the art glass world. With the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Society of Contemporary Crafts, and the Pittsburgh Glass Center, the Warhol Museum, all world class, it has become a hub for artists, students, and collectors. I encourage you all to attend June 7-9 of 2007.

In January, the Board of GAS will meet in Portland to plan the 2008 conference and I hope that we have received all your proposals so they can be reviewed.



Get Ready to be Transformed in Pittsburgh!

by Karen Johnese

Pittsburgh was a gray steel town until the mid 1980s. Those who have not been here recently still think of it as sooty and bleak.

How surprised you will be when you discover this beautiful, architec-

MEMBER PROFILE

J. P. Canlis

For Jean-Pierre (J.P.) Canlis, simplicity and completion are the most important elements of his work. As he explains, "Anyone can make something simple seem complex; it is taking the complex and translating it into the most simple form which inspires me. I want the viewer to walk away settled, feeling the art has a sense of completion." His pieces resonate with this purity, exposing the essence of the organic elements that Canlis captures in his work.

Canlis' signature has become his unique bamboo installations. Whether they are mounted on a wall of a bedroom or 3D in a hotel, the original works make an impact. The solid sculpted glass stalks of these installations can tower up to twelve feet high.

The natural forces of the ocean are the inspiration for Canlis' series of work, "Ocean Studies." An avid surfer who spent his childhood in Hawaii, Canlis has a keen understanding of the ocean's movement, currents, and waves, which he explores in the six different forms of his "Ocean Studies" series.

Canlis first picked up a glassblowing pipe in 1991 at Hawaii's Punahou School and later studied glass art at Alfred University in New York and the Pilchuck School in Washington. After Martin Blank introduced J.P. to Chihuly in 1993, J.P. spent the next nine years working in Chihuly's hot shop. During his last four years with Chihuly, Canlis also worked with Lino Tagliapietra's glass team. In 1996, Canlis created the company Jean-Pierre Canlis Glass, now known as Canlis Glass.

In 2005, after working exclusively on Canlis Glass in Honolulu for four years, J.P. moved back to Seattle to set up Canlis Glass Gallery & Studio in downtown Seattle with his wife and business partner, Leigh Canlis. J.P.'s works are on view in restaurants, hotels, and corporations throughout the United States. His latest works are available for viewing at Canlis Glass Gallery in the Northwest Worklofts, 3131 Western Avenue, Suite 329, Seattle, WA 98121. Also visit www.canlisglass.com.



Right: J.P. Canlis

Above:
Canlis' Bamboo series (detail)

