

News Release:

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Open to the Public

Habatat Detroit Welcomes Glass Artists From Around the World to The 51st Annual Glass Invitational Award Exhibition

The Internationally Known Glass Art Gallery in Royal Oak Welcomes
The Glass Art Society to Metro Detroit

Habatat Detroit is the oldest and largest contemporary art glass gallery in the world and it is located right in Royal Oak, Michigan. The extraordinary gallery will host the **51st Annual International Glass Invitational Award Exhibition (GLASS51)** featuring the finest glass artists in the world with a gala celebration open free to the public from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, June 9. The gallery is located at 4400 Fernlee in Royal Oak. The exhibit continues through August 18.

This year, the glass celebration marks the final event of **The Glass Art Society Conference** which comes to metro Detroit for the first time ever. The conference brings together not only the finest glass artists in the world but the museum curators, collectors and academics that make up the world art glass community.

"It is a real privilege to host the Glass Art Society at this year's International Glass Exhibition," said Aaron 'Mr. Glass' Schey, Director of Habatat Detroit. " There will be over 400 artists from around the world showing their work, many of whom will be at the exhibition. The participation of the Glass Art Society takes the exhibit to another level. It gives the public a once in a lifetime opportunity to interact with so many artists and members of the glass art community."

Schey continued, "One of the goals of the annual exhibition is to acquaint the general public with the world of glass art. Not everyone is a collector but it is important to us that the general public learn about the medium of glass and how it has grown in the world of fine art over the decades."

Habatat Galleries was founded by Ferdinand Hampson in 1971, nine years after the concept of glass as an art material began being explored in a garage on the found of the Toledo Art Museum. Over its history, it has grown and earned its international reputation.

Since 2013, Habatat Galleries, has been guided by Hampson's two sons, Aaron Schey and Corey Hampson, the second generation of glass gallery owners influencing and molding opinions and recognition in the art world. Last year it changed its official name to **Habatat Detroit**.

"Our home and identity is as part of Detroit – a metro area known for its artistic heritage and its forward thinking art community, said Schey. " In fact, Detroit is the only UNESCO certified City of Design in the country. This status recognizes the city's design legacy and community, it is one of the attractions of the Glass Art Society convention to come here. Habatat Detroit is thrilled to share the great art and design heritage of metro Detroit with the world glass community and with all Michiganders."

The Basic Details:

What:

Habatat's 51st Annual International Glass Invitational Award Exhibition - Grand Opening

Date:

Friday, June 9, 2023

Time:

Open to the public 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Admission:

Free

Location:

Habatat Detroit

4400 Fernlee in Royal Oak, MI 48073

The show continues through August 18 The gallery is open daily Tuesday through Saturday. Tuesday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 12 a.m. to 5 p.m. in June. Admission is free.

For Information: Go to www.habatat.com or call 248-554-0590

Habatat and Studio Glass History

Habatat Galleries was founded in 1971 as the brainchild of Ferdinand Hampson.

"For 51 years Habatat Galleries has promoted, legitimized and elevated a new art material to a point of recognition by the art community," explains Hampson. "In 1963 the first course in glass was offered at the University of Wisconsin and during the following decade several colleges began programs.

"People involved with studio glass were the outsiders -- not accepted or recognized by the fine art combine of museums, galleries, collectors and art publications. What allowed galleries involved with glass to develop, were an almost cult like crop of collectors and a very talented group of makers that had the audacity to think of themselves as artists. There were also a few forward, independent thinking curators and a few galleries willing to promote, but barely maintaining a marginal existence. For Habatat, promotion, innovation and a willingness to exhibit the riskiest concepts that artists had to offer were the keys for eventual success."

Today the world of contemporary art glass has grown dramatically from its beginnings of mostly blown glass to constantly evolving creative ways of working with glass including cast, slumped, fused, flamed, and laminated glass works of art. In all, it is the finest sculpture, using glass as a means of expression.

Since those early days Habatat Galleries has orchestrated over a hundred Museum and Art Center exhibitions. These museum exhibitions have set attendance records several times. Habatat has produced more literature than any gallery involved in this media including 25 major catalogues, five books and an additional 50 artists exhibition catalogues.

Habatat has negotiated with museums and collectors, developing major collections at museums such as The Flint Institute of Art in Michigan, The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, The University of Michigan Dearborn, Michigan, the Imagine Museum in Florida, The Fort Wayne Museum in Indiana and the Museum Del Vitro in Mexico.

In addition, Habatat has presented over 400 exhibits of studio glass in its galleries.

Habatat show video:

[Glass International Habatat Galleries Royal Oak Michigan - YouTube](#)