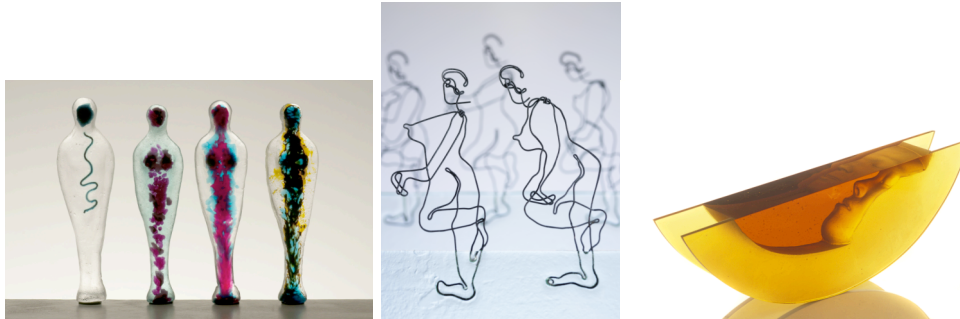


ZeST
contemporary glass gallery

PRESS RELEASE



FIGURATION

21 January – 27 March 2010

Zest is pleased to announce *Figuration*, a group exhibition of contemporary glass artists who explore the human figure through the medium of glass. *Figuration* showcases the work of Simone Bremner, Morag Gordon, Tanwen Llewelyn and Yoshiko Okada, amongst others.

Taking the 'real world' and the human form as their point of departure, figurative artists in contemporary practice also tend toward abstraction in considering the true nature of the 'real' and figurative. Employing a variety of techniques and conceptual originality, the variety of work on display serves as an introduction into figuration in glass art as well as an insight into the diverse and unique nature of the artists' work and inspiration.

Morag Gordon set up her first glass studio in 1984 and has worked with a large variety of techniques from creating blown forms to windows and sculptural pieces. Throughout this time, the one constant in her work is her use of figurative imagery. She is inspired by the way humans create tension through gaze, an outstretched hand or body language. Morag also explores the human condition, and the methods through which we interact with one other. Sometimes the themes appear very personal to the viewer, yet Morag hopes to reflect a multitude of generic experiences in her work.

Simone Bremner uses casting techniques combined with hot pouring to create her freestanding sculptures, in which the human form is represented through the subtle use of outlines. Through this body of work, Simone is exploring the idea of transition, and she explores the process by which an experience or element undergoes a change, passing from one state into another. Her work creates a dialogue between the making process and the meaning of life.

Yoshiko Okada's work addresses the cultural collage of her Japanese background and the English environment in which she lives. She uses kiln cast techniques, combined with sandblasting and photographic fused imagery, to capture different facial expressions in her solid glass sculptures. Her work is purposefully simple in form, but multiplicitous in message, playing with the idea of hidden feelings and emotions which lie beneath the human surface. The frozen moment of her pieces is very important to her aesthetic.

Tanwen Llewelyn starts each of her works with a charcoal figure drawing. Her pieces are then formed from wire and glass. To create a clear relationship between the starting point and her finished piece, she uses iron wire to create an interpretation of a drawn figure. She hammers, twists and bends the wire to obtain an approximation of the figure, then fuses them within clear glass. Her works are purposefully humorous and erotic, displaying the naked human form with exaggerated curvature and expression. Set in glass, the wire figure is unavoidably exposed, a reference to the pressures and expectations of contemporary society.

PREVIEW / PRESS NIGHT

Wednesday, January 20th, 6.30-8.30pm

Special open evening to meet the artists whilst enjoying a glass of fizz.

EVENTS

There will be a number of events during the exhibition, including **Artist Talks**. Please contact us for details.

Zest Gallery brings outstanding British and international glass to a wider audience through an exciting and varied exhibition programme as well as permanent collections of work by Adam Aaronson and other top artists. During the week, visitors can watch glassmakers in action at the adjacent Aaronson Noon Glass Studio -- a fascinating insight into the skilled world of glassblowing.

Entrance is free and all work is available to buy from Zest Gallery.

For images, artist biographies or further information on the exhibition or Aaronson Noon Glass Studio and Beginner's Glassblowing Courses please contact Corinne Alexander on 020 7610 1900 or email corinne@zestgallery.com

Zest Gallery is open:
Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm

Notes to editors:

Adam Aaronson

For more than 25 years, aside from making his own glass, Adam Aaronson has been discovering and promoting emerging artists, including many who are now established glass artists, such as Tessa Clegg, Anna Dickinson and many others. He has always offered residencies and internships to both British and international artists and continues to support new glass talent by working collaboratively with artists, encouraging their use of hot glass in his studio.

Zest Gallery

Zest Gallery opened in September 2003 to exhibit cutting edge contemporary glass art. It showcases the work of renowned glass artists as well as new faces on the scene.

Aaronson Noon Glass Studio

Adam Aaronson's studio runs half-day glass blowing courses offering an exciting and intensive experience aimed at introducing beginners or novices to the wonders of hot glass. Further information is available from corinne@zestgallery.com / 020 7610 1900.

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