



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BUILDING A GLASS NEST TWIG BY TWIG**

*Susan Taylor Glasgow Shows Her Homemaking Skills in Her Newest Exhibition at Pittsburgh Glass Center*

#### **NEWS FACTS**

- Pittsburgh Glass Center, one of the top glass art facilities in the U.S., debuts a new glass art exhibition by Susan Taylor Glasgow called "Absence of Body" on October 3, 2008.
- This is the worldwide premiere of Susan Taylor Glasgow's exhibition "Absence of Body."
- "Absence of Body" includes an eight foot glass bird's nest among several other glass art installations and examples of Glasgow's signature sewn glass technique.
- This exhibition benefits Pittsburgh Glass Center and Bethlehem Haven.

(PITTSBURGH, PA – August 11, 2008)...Feminine intuition or instinct? Susan Taylor Glasgow is building a giant glass bird's nest at Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC). The nest will be the focal point of her newest exhibition called "Absence Of Body." The exhibition opens Friday, Oct. 3 and runs through Jan. 9, 2009 at Pittsburgh Glass Center, one of the top glass art facilities in the U.S. Glasgow is participating in an eight-week residency at PGC leading up to this premiere exhibition.

"My work is the result of homemaking skills gone awry. I have always embraced femininity and domesticity in spirit, but not in action. My life as an artist puts housekeeping last, while instead I cook, arrange, and sew glass. My internal domestic struggle has led me to examine the concept of domestic expectations and traditional roles of men and women. I am intrigued by 1950s imagery and the false perception of simpler times. My work embraces the

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domestic act of sewing in an unexpected medium. I enjoy combining text with nostalgic imagery to create pieces that explore the complex dichotomy of women's roles within the household, " Glasgow said.

### **The Communal Nest**

"The Communal Nest" is the focal point of Glasgow's exhibition and residency at PGC. The eight foot bird's nest will be made up of several hundred glass twigs created by Glasgow and artists from around the world. The center of the nest will hold an empty chair indicating that someone has just left. Surrounding the nest will be five or six additional sewn glass pieces supporting the concept of the exhibition.

"The idea of 'The Communal Nest' came from an existing series of my work involving the concept of the 'Bluebird of Happiness.' In that series, I combined images of bluebirds and housewives and played homage to the feminine nesting instinct. I wanted to explore that thought further and set that bird free with an installation representing growth and shelter" said Glasgow.

It was important for Glasgow that "The Communal Nest" was built not only by her, but also by the community surrounding it. Artists from around the world are being asked to contribute glass twigs to the nest and to include a favorite quote to be transferred onto vellum strips that will be woven into the nest. Non artists can sponsor an artist from PGC to create a twig in their name. To contribute a twig, visit <http://www.taylorglasgow.com/CommunalNest.htm>, [www.pittsburghglasscenter.org](http://www.pittsburghglasscenter.org) or contact Pittsburgh Glass Center at 412-365-2145 ext. 206.

The exhibition benefits Pittsburgh Glass Center and Bethlehem Haven, a women's shelter located in Pittsburgh, Pa. After its debut in Pittsburgh, the exhibition will travel across the U.S. making stops at Third Degree Glass Studio in St. Louis, Missouri where it will benefit a women's shelter and the Bingham Gallery in Columbia, Missouri in August 2009.

This exhibition is supported by the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, Bullseye Glass, Huebert Builders and several generous artists and individuals.

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## **I Cook, Arrange, and Sew Glass**

Once a seamstress, Glasgow now sews glass panels together to create translucent vessels and sculpture. A native of Duluth, Minnesota, Glasgow studied design at the University of Iowa. Now a resident of Columbia, Missouri, her studio is an old 1930s house in downtown Columbia that she and her husband rescued from demolition. She is the 2002 recipient of Pilchuck Glass School emerging artists grant, a Wheaton Village fellow in fall of 2003, and a visiting artist at several community schools. She has received many awards. Her work is included in the permanent collection of the Carnegie Museum, Chrysler Museum, Museum of American Glass, and several others.

## **Building a Glass Community**

Glasgow's residency illustrates the Pittsburgh Glass Center mission of teaching, creating and promoting glass art. "The Communal Nest" represents its growing glass community. Artists come to PGC to teach, create and learn about glass art in a nurturing and safe environment. Once the artists have developed the skills and confidence that PGC teaches and encourages, they leave the nest to build their own studios and professions thus growing the glass community.

Pittsburgh Glass Center is a nonprofit, public access glass studio and gallery dedicated to teaching, creating and promoting glass art. A growing arts organization in Southwestern Pennsylvania, PGC is bringing new life to Pittsburgh's glass art legacy and maintaining the momentum brought to the region last summer by Dale Chihuly and Pittsburgh Celebrates Glass 2007. Learn more about the Pittsburgh Glass Center by visiting our Web site at [www.pittsburghglasscenter.org](http://www.pittsburghglasscenter.org) or by calling 412-365-2145.

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