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**GLASS & STEEL: ART TRANSCENDS INDUSTRY**

*Thirty-one Regional Artists Create Art to Celebrate Pittsburgh's 250th Anniversary*

PITTSBURGH, PA ... As Pittsburgh celebrates its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Pittsburgh Glass Center salutes the city's industrial past and creative future in its newest exhibition "Glass & Steel: Art Transcends Industry." The exhibition showcases artwork created by 31 artists from Southwestern Pennsylvania. Each work of art incorporates Pittsburgh's industrial roots – glass and steel. A free opening reception with the artists will be held on Friday, May 2 from 6 to 9 pm at Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC), located at 5472 Penn Avenue in Pittsburgh, Pa. The exhibition runs through September 5, 2008. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Thursday from 10 am to 7 pm and Friday – Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm.

Artists featured in the exhibition include: Bill Ballard, Hunter Blackwell, Dave Born, Donna Broderick, Jonathan Capps, Judi Charlson, Chris Clarke, Karin Coyne, Theresa Cress, Brian Engel, Daneal Ferraro, Marianne Filiaggi, Jason Forck, Doug Hansel, Leslie Kaplan, Claire Kelly, Samantha Laffey, Dana Laskowski, Dan LeDonne, Jan Loney, Melissa Melan, Hilde Munck, Jeffrey Phelps, Elizabeth Potenza, Heather Joy Puskarich, Suzanne Ririe, Tina Rojas, Darlene Durrwachter Rushing, Nick Russo, Jessica Rutherford and Anthony Schafermeyer.

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## **New Faces in Glass Art**

“Glass & Steel: Art Transcends Industry” showcases a variety of art ranging from jewelry and sculpture to installations, in addition to some new faces. Local metal artist Jan Loney’s work will be included as well as two local high school students - Hunter Blackwell and Dana Laskowski.

“I’ve only been working with glass for a year and a half. It’s a challenging medium. I learned by taking teen classes at PGC and I was bitten by the glass bug. I’m excited to be a part of the exhibition and to show my work along with the best glass artists in Pittsburgh,” said Dana Laskowski, age 17 of Highland Park and junior at The Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts.

“I’m fascinated with hands and facial features. My exhibition piece is representative of how fragile the human mind can be and how our hands can help rebuild ourselves,” continued Laskowski.

## **Pittsburgh’s Growing Glass Art Community**

Since opening in 2001, over two dozen glass artists have moved to Pittsburgh to live and work at the Center and nearly 5,000 students have taken classes at PGC from internationally renowned glass artists such as Walter Lieberman, Dante Marioni, Benjamin Moore, Stephen Rolfe Powell, Davide Salvatore, Susan Taylor Glasgow, Cesare Toffolo, Gianni Toso, and Karen Willenbrink among many others. In the last five years, over 40,000 people have visited PGC to take a class, rent the studio, explore the gallery or see a demonstration.

For over a century, the Pittsburgh region was the center of production and marketing for America’s glass industry. Pittsburgh could easily have become known as the “Glass City” instead of the “Steel City.” Pittsburgh Glass Center is connecting the City’s history as a major producer of glass to its creative future through the innovative use of glass as art.

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### **About Pittsburgh Glass Center**

Pittsburgh Glass Center is a nonprofit, public access glass studio and gallery dedicated to teaching, creating and promoting glass art. The 16,000+ square foot facility houses state-of-the-art studios in hot glass, frameworking, coldworking, casting and kilnworking. The staff of skilled technicians, highly qualified instructors and dedicated administrators work together to create an open environment where students of all skill levels can explore and achieve their creative vision in glass. The goal is to provide instruction and resources to expand the skills and knowledge of our students, while fostering a new generation of glass artists and enthusiasts in the Pittsburgh region, and in its East End home. 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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