



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Paige Pertz 412-365-2145 x 202
paige@pittsburghglasscenter.org

Date: April 26, 2007

“ALLURE OF JAPANESE GLASS” TO OPEN AT PITTSBURGH GLASS CENTER ON MAY 4
17 Emerging Glass Artists from Japan will Exhibit Work in PGC’s First International Exhibition

PITTSBURGH, PA.... Pittsburgh Glass Center will lure glass appreciators to its first international exhibition of contemporary glass art called “Allure of Japanese Glass.” The exhibition that features 17 established and emerging artists who work in a full range of glass art methods and techniques will open on May 4 and run through September 16 at Pittsburgh Glass Center, one of the top public access glass art facilities in the U.S.

“There have been very few shows of contemporary Japanese glass in the U.S., and virtually none that have focused on emerging, rather than established artists. Most of the artists in this exhibition have never exhibited in this country, which makes our show particularly exciting. There is a dynamic contemporary glass making community in Japan with little or no exposure in the U.S. It’s our intention to showcase these artists, introduce some new young faces and make the public aware of the creative energy that exists in glass in Japan,” said Janet McCall, PGC program manager.

Exhibiting artists include Fujiko Enami; Hiroshi Hamadate; Shiho Hayazaki; Sono Kago; Yasuko Kita; Toshikazu Kobayashi; Yukako Kojima; Yoshiaki Kojiro; Itcho Matsuo; Mikiko Nakano; Ken-ichi Sasakawa; Kentaro Senuma; Hikaru Shimada; Tomoe Shizumi; Yoko Togashi; Nobuyasu Toyooka; and Misaki Urushiyama. Although these artists are well known in their native Japan, few of them have exhibited in the United States.

- more -

This exhibition is curated by Harumi Yukutake and Tomoko Aoki. This exhibition is sponsored in part by Pittsburgh Celebrates Glass, Allegheny Regional Asset District, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Robert Lehman Foundation, E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Rockwell Foundation, Asian Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh, Japan America Society, in addition to the educators of glass schools and glass authorities in Japan who helped nominate the artists.

Harumi Yukutake is a glass artist from Tokyo. She is presently on the Board of Directors for the Glass Art Society in the U.S. and on the faculty at Toyama City Institute of Glass Art in Toyama, Japan. Her work has been featured in many exhibitions and publications around the world in addition to private collections and public collections including Kunst Museum of Dusseldorf, Germany; Museum of American Crafts, New Jersey; Notojima Glass Museum, Ishikawa, Japan; Toyama City, Toyama Japan; and Australian National University at Canberra School of Art. Yukutake studied glass at Tama Art University in Tokyo and in the U.S. at Rhode Island School of Design and Pilchuck Glass School.

Tomoko Aoki is a curator from Kyoto, Japan. She has had articles and reviews published in glass media such as "Glass House," "Glasswork" and "Glass & Art." She received her BS from Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts in Kyoto, Japan and her MA from New York University.

Pittsburgh Glass Center Celebrates 2007 Year of Glass

In 2007, Pittsburgh Glass Center celebrates its fifth anniversary with exhibitions, events and demonstrations throughout the year, plus it will host the international Glass Art Society (GAS) for its annual conference in Pittsburgh from June 7 – 9, 2007 attracting over 1,500 glass enthusiasts from around the world. The 2007 GAS Conference is a part of Pittsburgh's yearlong city-wide collaboration about glass called "Pittsburgh Celebrates Glass."

Since opening in 2001, Pittsburgh Glass Center has achieved recognition as one of the top glass facilities in the world. In addition, PGC received LEED Gold certification for its green building and practices. 2006 marked the fifth anniversary for the state-of-the-art studio and gallery.

PGC will celebrate this milestone throughout 2007 with a variety of activities and events including:

- Classes and workshops
- Three contemporary glass art exhibitions
- Free lectures every Wednesday evening May through August
- Free open house Hot Jams with hot glass demonstrations on First Fridays
- Guided tours with hot glass demonstrations every Saturday from May through August
- And much, much more!

For more information about “Allure of Japanese Glass” or “Pittsburgh Celebrates Glass” activities, contact Pittsburgh Glass Center at 412-365-2145 ext. 201 or visit www.pittsburghglasscenter.org.

About Pittsburgh Glass Center

Celebrating its fifth anniversary in conjunction with “Pittsburgh Celebrates Glass” in 2007, 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, flameworking, 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 or by calling 412-365-2145.

###