



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Date: April 2, 2008

Call for Glass Twigs

*Artists from Around the World Asked to Contribute to Local Exhibition
Benefiting Pittsburgh Glass Center and Bethlehem Haven*

PITTSBURGH, PA...Artists from around the world are being asked to create twigs made of glass from 8-20" in size to be included in "The Communal Nest," an installation that is part of Susan Taylor Glasgow's exhibition "Absence of Body" at Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC). The glass twigs can be made by casting, torch, or off-hand out of "crystal" clear glass (no color). Visit Susan Taylor Glasgow's website for further information and a fun tutorial on "Glass Twig Making 101". www.taylorglasgow.com

People who are not artists can contribute as well. Individuals, businesses or groups can sponsor a glass artist from the Pittsburgh Glass Center to create a twig in their name by making a donation of \$75 for a large twig (30-40") and \$50 for a medium size (20-30"). All profits go to support the programs of the Pittsburgh Glass Center and Bethlehem Haven.

About the Exhibition

The Pittsburgh Glass Center's Hodge Gallery presents a unique installation and exhibition of new works called "Absence of Body" by Susan Taylor Glasgow, a world renowned glass artist. The artist will be participating in an 8-week long studio residency at Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC) leading up to the exhibition.

MORE

“The bird's nest has always symbolized shelter, domesticity, safety and growth. As the focal point of the exhibition, I've decided to create a giant glass bird's nest--approximately 8' in diameter and 2' tall, with a space in the center for a glass pillow and other objects,” says Glasgow.

There will be approximately five additional pieces of art surrounding the nest to support the concept of growth and shelter. To further support this theme, Glasgow and PGC are working together to establish a partnership with a local women's shelter, Bethlehem Haven, in efforts to fundraise and cross-promote programs. Bethlehem Haven's mission is to provide a continuum of care for homeless women that leads toward self-sufficiency.

Glasgow's exhibition is also appropriately timed to open just before the International Women's Forum Conference is held in Pittsburgh October 17-19, 2008. “Absence of Body” will open on October 3, 2008 and run through January 2009.

About Susan Taylor Glasgow

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 a 2002 recipient of the Pilchuck Glass School emerging artists grant, a Wheaton Village fellow in fall of 2003, and a visiting artist at several community schools in Columbia. Her work is included in several museums world wide, including the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh.

She says, “My Mother was a complicated woman. Raising we girls by the ‘Book of Conflicting Messages,’ my mother lovingly shaped me into an ask questions later, act like a lady, you can do anything, but learn to type, boys only want one thing, but don't say what it is, do it right or don't do it at all, fall in love, but have something to fall back on artist. Oh, and learn to cook and sew. Men like that.

“Somehow, as a result, I embraced domesticity in feminine spirit, but not in action. And, of course, feel guilty about not being a good wife. Misguided domestic talents eventually grew

MORE

into concepts of sewing an unyielding medium, baking incredible creations, and stitching glass clothing no one can wear. Housekeeping is last while instead I cook, arrange, and sew glass.

“My life and art are the result of homemaking skills gone awry. I have the luxury of exploring the complexities of domestic life from the safe distance of my studio. For years I believed my work was about myself. But ultimately my work is about my Mother. With the sewing and cooking skills she passed on, I am able to indulge my own notions of domestic role-playing. My work embraces feminine ideals of sewing and cooking, but in a contrary material, offering conflicting messages of comfort and expectation.

“I often explain that my Mother was not an artist herself, but knew how to raise one. Thanks Mom, this little acorn did not fall far from the tree.”

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, flameworking, coldworking, casting and kilnworking, plus a gallery that features contemporary glass art exhibitions. The staff of skilled technicians, highly qualified instructors and dedicated administrators work together to create an open environment where students of all skill level 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 here in the Pittsburgh region, and in our Friendship/Garfield home. Learn more about the Pittsburgh Glass Center by visiting our Web site at www.pittsburghglasscenter.org or by calling 412-365-2145.

#