SILICA VALLEY ACTIVITY – VANESSA CUTLER
The beauty of technology often goes unnoticed because of its overwhelming presence in our day to day lives. This exhibition currently at Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC) features a group of artists that have developed their unique body of works with the aid of modern machines. Although the technology is integral to each of their processes; the human hand is what brings the work to life. Each artist is an expert in their field and is leading the way in developing new and unique techniques in glass. The work showcases the fact that every robot needs a human.

VANESSA CUTLER
Vanessa Cutler is an artist, academic and consultant. She is currently Programme Leader in Product Design at Chichester University. Trained initially in Stained Glass at Swansea, before going onto a Masters at Wolverhampton, where she was introduced to waterjet technology. Since 1997 she has specialized in using waterjet technology creatively.

“Glass has always played an important role in my work. It is a material with character, feistiness and a voice. It can scream and shout, be brash and subtle, controlled yet troublesome. However, the more time you are involved with it the more seductive it becomes; as one starts to understand its parameters and properties it throws another challenge to push its limits further.”

“Glass is part of my practice; a medium that my ideas flow into and give a glimpse of my fascination of forms from everyday events in my life, of objects, architecture seen, dreamt and read about. Images that seem to race through the mind are transposed into forms that can explain more about my character than I can explain.”

“Using people's handwriting to investigate technology and see how machines can replicate our identity, over 500 glass medals were produced, programmed, micro-waterjet cut and distorted. Each medal is held on its own pin allowing the medal to hang freely and move in response to its environment. Sometimes the chatter is still other times busy letting you hear its voice. The handwritten word is probably our only realm of privacy in this current technology driven society and in many schools cursive handwriting is no longer taught, what privacy might the next generation have??”

Vanessa Cutler
TRY THIS AT HOME
The artist attached each glass medal with a pin so that they might move and respond with the environment. Imagine you can hear this piece moving.

• If you could hear this piece moving, what might it sound like?
• Can you find something in your house to make a similar sound or how you imagine the glass would sound?
• Write a few words to describe the sound. Compare your writing with a family member. Notice how each person's handwriting is unique to them.
• Try to copy each other's handwriting. Is it easy or hard to copy?

Show us your work!
Post pictures and videos of your work on Instagram and tag @pghglasscenter and #artatadistance