

**GAFFER**  
STUDIO GLASS

&

**STARCAP**  
GALLERIES



are pleased to present

# Mastery - In Contemporary Glass

November 21-28th 2007

**Andrew Baldwin**

**Benjamin Edols**

**Benjamin Sewell**

**Clare Belfrage**

**Gerry King**

**Guan Donghai**

**Noel Hart**

**Philip Stokes**

**Tali Dalton**

**Tom Rowney**

Additional information &  
high resolution images are available  
on request please email

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[www.theartshouse.com.sg](http://www.theartshouse.com.sg)

With thanks -



Australian Government

Australian Trade Commission

Gaffer Studio Glass based in Hong Kong & Starcap Galleries  
Singapore jointly present

**Mastery – In Contemporary Glass**

Highlighting Australian & Asian Mastery in Contemporary Studio  
Glass Sculpture for the second time in Singapore – Gaffer Studio  
Glass in collaboration with the Singapore Arts Festival in 2005 was  
honored to present “Contemporary Studio Glass”

Now again in 2007 Gaffer Studio Glass & Starcap Galleries are  
privileged to exhibit Australian & Asia’s most internationally acclaimed  
Glass sculptors – which are found in the World’s most prestigious  
Museums collections such as the “Corning Museum of Glass in New  
York USA, Victoria & Albert Museum London UK, Australian National  
Museum Canberra Australia – just to name a few!

I hope Singapore Collectors enjoy this rare opportunity.

**Julie Lambe**

*Director* Gaffer Studio Glass





Rough, delicate. The quality of carved lines. The gathering of light. The interplay of forms. A moment of balance.

Inspiration for my work is drawn from the natural environment. I think about my work as being meditations on detail: the spine of a feather, ripples on water, light on the edge of a leaf. These impressions are interpreted into glass with a particular attention for the process of mark making and the impact of the different qualities of the glass surface.

I utilise blown forms with colour overlay techniques. The blown forms are surface-worked using the lathe, often with a contrast of deep carving and subtle surface finishing.

This new body of work uses layers of coloured glass trails to create a lively, painterly quality on the glass surface. The rich but soft colours weave a basket like pattern over the form, emulating the fluidity of hot glass.

**Andrew Baldwin**



## Benjamin Edols

Benjamin Edols was born in 1967 in Sydney Australia, Kathy Elliott was born in 1964 also in Sydney. Benjamin completed undergraduate study at Sydney College of the Arts and went on to receive a post graduate diploma from Canberra School of Art. Kathy finished her BA at Canberra School of Art in 1991 where she met Ben. The first exhibition of their collaborative work was in 1993 at deVera in San Francisco.

Since that time they have developed a body of work of blown and cold worked glass vessels and forms. They have taught in Australia, America and Japan and their work has been exhibited widely.

Ben is a skilled glassblower and he has worked with Dante Marioni and Lino Tagliapietra over the years. Kathy has specialised in cold working techniques .

In 2000 they built their own glassblowing and coldworking studio in Sydney where they continue to work each day with the assistance of Luke Mount and Kristy Toepfer.

In the last few years their work has been inspired by botanical forms and the patterns found in nature. Glass has the wonderful quality to carry light and they exploit this as the glass mimics the way light is diffused through fluid filled cells.



Born 28th of May 1972  
Esperance, Western Australia

#### Artist Statement

My work engages with the idea of balance, I articulate this through the interplay of the symbiotic nature of opposites, such as presence and absence, surface and void. In the first place I establish a solid foundation in the strength of the form. I build upon this as I develop the surface with graphic qualities. Either side of each piece is hand-worked to create a sense of unity among the various parts and to bring out the natural interplay of the surface and light as intrinsic virtues of glass.

**Benjamin Sewell**



## Clare Belfrage

Inspired by experiences of detail in nature, Clare Belfrage's work has been distinguished by the use of fine glass threads to draw complex linear patterns on the surface of blown glass forms. "I am interested in moments I have experienced in the natural environment where I am captivated by a dynamic simplicity of a scene or a moment where you realise the complexity of life going on around you. This work is inspired by the movement of light and water. I imagine the rhythm and energy, a drama within a soft kind of stillness."

Clare lives and works in Adelaide, Australia where she is a founding member of the glass based studio, blue pony. In addition to Australia, she regularly exhibits in North America, Europe, Hong Kong and New Zealand. Her work has been recognised for its innovation and originality and in 2005 she was awarded the Tom Malone Glass Prize by the Art Gallery of Western Australia and, a New Work grant by the Australia Council for the Arts. Clare's work is represented in major public collections including: Museo do Vidro, Marinha Grande, Lisbon, Portugal, Australian National Gallery, Canberra, Art Gallery of South Australia, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Artbank, Wagga Wagga National Art Glass Collection.



## Gerry King

Gerry King is a renowned artist and designer specializing in contemporary glass. His work is exhibited, collected and published internationally and held in some twenty public museum collections worldwide. Orientated towards exhibiting, he is also sought for design commissions and architectural projects. Originally trained as a glassblower he now works with a wide variety of techniques. One of the first Australians in the field, King commenced working with glass while undertaking postgraduate studies in the USA during the early 1970s. He holds a variety of academic awards in art and education culminating in a Doctor of Creative Arts from the University of Wollongong. In the 1980's he was instrumental in the development of the Glass Studies course at the University of South Australia. His career has long been internationally based, both as an exhibitor and in other roles. He is engaged as a consultant, publishes articles on contemporary glass, teaches workshops, lectures and presents conference papers internationally.

His works often have an underlying socio-political commentary. Visually, they capture the magic of glass, causing light to 'dance' through them. This unique character of his works is in part a result of the techniques he has developed in which each colour of the glass is caused to flow into its final position.



**Guan Donghai**

DATE OF BIRTH: 11 June 1966

PLACE OF BIRTH: Mudanjiang, Heilongjiang province of China

EDUCATION:

2002-2003 School of Art & Design University of Wolverhampton, UK MA (Glass)

1994-1997 Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University MA

1985-1989 Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University BA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Head of the Glass Art Studio in Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University

Associate Professor in Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University

1989-1994 lecturer in Tianjin Polytechnic University

Member of Beijing Watercolor Society

SOLO EXHIBITION:

2006 Gaffer Studio Glass Gallery, Hong Kong

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

2006 Qingzhou International Art Exhibition, Qingzhou Museum, Shandong

2006 Green Thought in an Urban Shade, Beijing

2006 Asia Art Festival 'Beyond the Rainbow', Sungsan Art hall, Korea

2005 'Together & Different', group exhibition, Yan Club Arts Center(798 Art Zone), Beijing

2005 'Art & Design Department Tsinghua University Ornamental Art', Xingfucun Art Center, Beijing

2005 'The 4th Cheongju International Craft Biennale', Cheongju, Korea

2005 'Noah's Ark', group exhibition, Beijing

2005 1st Studio's Glass Art Exhibition, Beijing

2005 The First Beijing International Artist Camp  
Open Exhibit, Beijing  
2004 The 10th Chinese National Art Exhibition,  
Shantou Museum  
2004 'Times View', The National Fine Art Gallery,  
Beijing  
2004 Cohesion' Art Scene Warehouse, Shanghai  
2004 798 Art Zone,3818Warehouse Exhibition,  
Beijing  
2004 'In and Out' International Exhibition,  
Beijing.  
2003 'DIMENSIONS' MA Art & Design show,  
Wolverhampton University, UK  
2003 RBSA Friends Exhibition, Birmingham, UK  
2003 RBSA Open All Media Exhibition,  
Birmingham, UK  
2002 The 9th Beijing-Seoul-Hong Kong  
international Watercolor Painting Exhibition,  
Beijing  
2001 The Modern Art Exhibition of China, Egypt  
2001 The 8th Beijing-Seoul Watercolor Painting  
Interchange Exhibition, Korea  
2001 Art & Science International Exhibition,  
Beijing  
2001 Beijing Water-colour Painting Exhibition,  
Beijing  
2000 Teachers Exhibition of Academy of Arts &  
Design, Tsinghua University, Kuwait  
2000 Collection of works form 5th National  
Water-colour Painting and Gouache  
Exhibition, Guangzhou  
2000 The 7th Beijing-Seoul Watercolor Painting  
Interchange Exhibition, Beijing  
1999 The 9th Chinese National Art Exhibition,  
Nanjing

PUBLISHED:

Book 'The Art Glass Blowing Technique' was  
published in 2006

ARTICLES:

'The City Gates of Guan Donghai' Craft  
Arts International No.67, 2007 by Andrew  
Brewerton

AWARDS:

Watercolor work 'Small Yard' won The Daler  
Rowney Prize on RBSA Friends Exhibition  
2003, Birmingham

Watercolor work 'Old Factory Building' won  
The Quiney Prizes on RBSA Open All Media  
Exhibition, Birmingham, 2003

COLLECTED:

2006 'Regime' and 'City Gate Series No.7' were  
collected by Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung, Germany

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**Guan Donghai**



## Noel Hart

The artwork I create has primarily to do with nature. Most recently the focus has been on parrots.

My work is to do with symbols with the parrot as a symbol for nature. The parrot is one of the most 'at risk' species on earth. Many members of the family are on the verge of extinction, and there have been recent extinctions from within the family. By representing some aspect of these species in my work, I'm considering their very existence and their potential departure.

I've entertained the idea that the blown glass vessels are holding some essence of parrot, or are a species specific reliquary vessel. These pieces work also as a personal reaction against my own (and everyone else's) 'nature deficit disorder'. I've lived in a rainforest environment for almost 20 years now, and am somewhat (and getting more so) in touch with nature and its rhythms.

I was a painter long before I got into glass. I resisted hot glass (although working as a designer for a hot glass studio) until I could figure a way into it that stimulated my painter's sensibility. In this sense, these works are paintings using 'hot silica paint'. I work primarily in the blown flattened form which gives me 2 vaguely rectangular surfaces like simulated abstract paintings.



With a background in theatre I find that handling hot glass is surprisingly similar to the stage; Spontaneity, improvisation and chance are all elements that I enjoy and exploit, both in the making and in the final installation.

Stimulated by the sculptural possibilities of human form and the organisation of musculature, I hope to create dialogue between the viscous and sinuous qualities of the glass medium.

My work alludes to the tenuous nature and fragility of human tissue, whilst also referring to its inherent strengths. It is similarities between glass and muscle, flesh and fluids of the body that inspires the making and installation of these forms.

**Philip Stokes**



**Tali Dalton**

The concept behind my works is the abstract expression of intimate space and emotion within personal relationships. Each sculpture expresses a glimpse into a personal space, capturing an intimate moment, frozen in time.

It is my intent that the works evoke in the viewer memories of current or past relationships or dreams and hopes for their personal future.

By stimulating in the viewer memories of personal experiences I hope to instantly involve them with the works, capturing their interest and encouraging interpretation and understanding of each piece.



## Tom Rowney

Tom Rowney began his glassmaking career at the Budgerie Glass Factory in Port Adelaide, South Australia with a traineeship with Australian glass artist, Nick Mount. Tom then received an undergraduate degree from the Canberra School of Art, in 1996. From 1996 to 1999, Rowney worked as a glass artist and hot glass assistant at the Denizen Glass studio in Manly and went on to work at the Edols & Elliott workshop at Brookvale in Sydney's north until 2006. He is currently employed at the Canberra Glassworks as the Technical Manager, as well as teaching part-time and continuing with his practice as a professional artist.

Tom has enjoyed teaching at a variety of international schools for many years, including: the Canberra School of Art, the JAM Factory, in Adelaide, Vetroricerca Glas and Modern in Bolzano, Italy, the Eugene Glass School in Oregon, USA, Creative Glass in Zurich, Switzerland, North Lands Creative Glass in Lybster, Scotland and at the Pilchuck Glass School, USA as a teaching assistant.

Since 1997, he has developed two major series, 'Map Series' and 'Maelstrom', and his work has featured in exhibitions in Australia and overseas.

Venetian style glass blowing has always fascinated me the most. The combination of precision and accuracy used to create a precise piece of glass is something I aim for in my work. I enjoy handling the molten glass, the sense of flow and timing dictate my working style.

The Maelstrom series is based on the fluid nature of blowing molten glass, and the relationship to the visual “water like qualities” of the solid state of blown glass. Each form has it’s own memory of liquid water, a drip, a drop, a splash, and the elastic forms the water becomes when a droplet detaches from its source (i.e. oval, round, flat). Through the use of canes as graphic line work on the surface, I am continuing to reference the eddying and swirling effects of a moving body of water.

**Tom Rowney**