



GLASS STARS SHINE IN SALEM

BY CHUCK ERHARDT

Highly acclaimed glass artist, Carmen Lozar, who has mastered creating delicate and intimate portraits that celebrate daily life, will demonstrate and lecture at the annual International Flameworking Conference (IFC), March 28–30, 2008. Held at Salem Community College (SCC) in Carneys Point, New Jersey, this annual event is chaired by world-renowned glass artist Paul J. Stankard, a distinguished alumnus of Salem Community College. Stankard is joined on the advisory team by SCC alumna Jillian Molettiere, Robert Mickelsen, Gateson Recko, and Milon Townsend. In addition to Lozar, the conference will also showcase artists Suellen Fowler, Eric Goldschmidt, and Milissa Montini.



First Things First

Kicking off the weekend is the preconference program, “Connecting the Dots—The Collective Perspective,” which will offer a series of breakout sessions. Presenters will be Beth Hylen, librarian for The Corning Museum of Glass; Chris Pavlou, owner of Turning Point Gallery; Gateson Recko, independent glass artist; and Arlene and Norman Silvers, glass collectors. The preconference program, for which attendees must register separately from the conference, will begin at 12 noon on Friday, March 28.

The weekend will culminate with a masters’ competition, “Glass Challenge: Possibilities vs. Limitations,” spotlighting Margaret Neher, Milon Townsend, and Lewis Wilson. Each member of this trio will attempt to create a finished work of art in only two hours and will begin with identical, predetermined “kits” of supplies and prepared parts that include a surprise component. Stankard will moderate. In addition, attendees will watch SCC alumnus, Ariel Rom, working on the lathe and hear from retired Rowan University art professor, Dr. Burton Wasserman, who will discuss “The Pursuit of Quality vs. Kitsch in Glass Art.”



Special Offerings from Lozar

Carmen Lozar's lecture, "Strays Make the Nicest Pets," is free and open to the public, starting at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 28 in the Sol and Jean Davidow Performing Arts Theatre, Davidow Hall. Her work includes diminutive celebrations of the everyday—taking a hot bath, sleeping alongside a loved one, eating voraciously out of a garden. "There is nothing particularly unusual about any of these events, yet the documentation of small, pleasurable occurrences serves to provide stable ground in an often pessimistic and jaded world," said Lozar, who will be demonstrating on Saturday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m.

Using a torch, Lozar manipulates hollow tubing and solid rods of glass to construct figures and objects that are then sandblasted and oil painted. The pieces may lose some of their "glassy" qualities, but for Lozar the most important attributes of the material remain—a sense of movement retained from the molten stage and a sense of fragility.

Thanks to the Sponsors

The International Flameworking Conference is made possible by the SCC Foundation with generous support by ABR Imagery, Inc.; Carlisle Machine Works, Inc.; Chemglass, Inc.; International Society of Glass Beadmakers; Pegasus Industrial Specialties, Inc.; SJ Venture Capital Co.; and Wale Apparatus Co., Inc. This conference is also made possible, in part, by funds from the Salem County Cultural & Heritage Commission through support from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

FLOW

For conference details, visit www.salemcc.edu or call (856) 351-2753.