

# Second Annual Night with Borosilicate

by Patrick Stark, Photos by Ryan Bromwell and Chris Carlson

I would first like to begin by congratulating Hot Glass Color & Supply Inc., and LastStop Smoke-shop the promoters of the Second Annual Show of Glass Artisans—A Night with Borosilicate, for making this year's event a grand success. The event, which took place at Hot Glass Color & Supply in Seattle, Washington, was also an occasion to celebrate the lifetime achievement of Bob Snodgrass.

Friday morning, February 23, saw the presentation of all the pieces in the main gallery juried by none other than Bob Snodgrass and Jason Lee. The doors opened to the public at 11 a.m., and by that time glassworkers from all over the Northwest and more distant places had already descended on the gallery to represent their finest glass art. Some of the work conveyed a message, combining form and function with a great deal of skill to create a very moving piece. Others tested the fragility of their medium to the extreme, and some chose to speak to the heart through classical beauty.

Borosilicate and soft glass demos began around noon starting with Nick Ashman giving a lesson in Advanced Shaping with Boro Tube. Nick showed everyone his figure eight penetration that combines great skill with an excellent sense of style and function. Pakoh represented with a satanic cow skull, a very good choice for a demo because the work encompassed advanced color theory, blowing, and sculptural technique. Amber Pellegrini came up with an elegant study of the female form. Doshier used some premade sections to give everyone a lesson in advanced multipiece construction. Next to the torches we had Aaron Tate working a beautiful soft-glass sculpture in the offhand tradition. For a large-scale piece such as this, I must say I was truly impressed with the detail. Later that afternoon one of our own judges, Bob, stepped up and made a silver skull marble, giving everyone a little taste of a technique he has discovered and perfected.

## The Flame Off

On Saturday, February 24, the Flame Off began around noon. This year there were two categories, one for functional pieces and another for sculpture and marble. The Flame Off drew a lot of attention throughout the day with crowds of people watching one beautiful piece after another get twisted out right before their eyes. As if that weren't enough, Bob and Aaron Tate decided to collaborate on a soft-glass skull marble. It wasn't long before the crowd had pushed its way to that side of the room to see the action. Interestingly enough, what was going on was a marble that had three fumed silver skulls inside it and was bigger than a basketball.

At the end of the time limit, the entries were numerous and the competition tough. First in the functional competition was Chris Carlson with a well-designed, two-tone bubbler. Second was Daniel Ruble for his fist, a part of his Black History Month series. Coming in third was Big Z from Fort Collins, Colorado. This talented glassblower has had only three years on the torch. I think he far exceeded many people's expectations with a small but highly stylized piece of his own design. In the marble and sculpture competition, Aaron Tate won for a detailed mask. Second was Sabina Boehm for a mushroom paperweight. Joel (aka Red), another Seattle native, took third for spiders in Kugler. The jurors award for pieces being shown in the gallery going only to one artist with no second place. This category went to Seattle's own MNP.



After the Flame Off, the gallery locked the doors to bring in the food and drinks and to give The Crucialites, a Seattle-area band, a chance to set up. The doors reopened around seven and for a ten-dollar cover charge there were food and drinks, raffles to sign up for, and more than enough eye candy to entertain the average glass enthusiast.

Sometime around ten, The Crucialites broke their set so the award ceremony could begin. This is what the entire show had been leading up to—honoring Bob Snodgrass with a lifetime achievement award. Without the contributions and inspiration of this man to so many, the world of borosilicate glass would not be what it is today. Finally he receives the recognition he deserves, thus creating the Bob Snodgrass lifetime achievement award. Robert of LastStop Smokeshop and codesigner of the award itself was on hand to present it. Hugh, Bob's first apprentice, said some nice things. It was truly an historical moment in the history of boro. The Crucialites picked up the beat and the party was in full swing.



I must conclude by thanking first the promoters Hot Glass Color & Supply Inc. (aka Jade and Cyrena at [www.hotglasscolor.com](http://www.hotglasscolor.com)) and Robert and Rose of LastStop Smokeshop. I would also like to thank Robert and Paul for putting their heads together to design the award presented to Bob and to everyone else who chipped in to make marbles and help with the assembly process—Nick Ashman, Ease, Doshier, Bearclaw, Amber Pelligrinni, Jason Lee, and Freek. A big thanks also goes to the shops that donated advertising, Pied Piper in Bremerton, Washington, and Piece of Mind in the Fremont area of Seattle. Let's also not forget the companies that supported the Flame Off with goods and donations—Northstar Glass, Glass Alchemy, Dichroic Alchemy, Momka's, Winship Design, ABR Imagery, Glow Glass LLC, and last, but most certainly not least, *The Flow* magazine.

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