



The 2019 Glass Vegas World Series of Glass

by Ted Campos

Photography by Doug Baldwin

An important part of the annual Glass Vegas Expo is the World Series of Glass (WSOG) competition. WSOG is one of only a few competitions where artists can bring in their already finished pieces and don't have to work under a time constraint to create their best art on the spot. Instead, they can enter their beautifully perfected finished glass art to be judged by a panel of their peers. Some of the best glass artists from all over the world come to compete for Best Artist of the Year in four categories—Solo, Collab, Millie, and Shot Glass.

A Breathtaking Display

An entire section of the expo floor was dedicated to showcasing every artist's signature handcrafted "time and effort" piece for all to see. The space is adorned with red carpet, velvet stanchions, tall gold Grecian pillars, beautiful well-lit display cases, and even masterfully hung pictures of the previous year's winners. The art that was displayed and awarded in 2019 was breathtaking, beautiful, and unparalleled.

Judging for the WSOG was done on a first, second, and third tier basis by qualified judges. For the ultimate skeptic, there was also a ballot box that allowed Glass Vegas attendees to cast their votes for a "People's Choice" award for each category. Serious prizes were presented, with winners in all categories collectively receiving over \$25,000 in cash and prizes. The trophies were pretty impressive as well. Let's just say you couldn't hang them around your neck!

Winners and Wrap-Ups

At the culmination of the expo, the champs were revealed and crowned during an award ceremony held on the main demo stage located directly on the show floor. The crowd was bigger than expected, and they were pumped! Arrangements were made to show the entire ceremony on a humongous overhead screen for the whole show floor to see. The same video feed was live streamed to TVs outside as well as to anyone with a smart phone via YouTube.

Glass Vegas Expo is a unique way of interacting with extremely talented and interesting glass artists while being transported to a new world—a world of respect, dignity, sales, and love all coupled with a festival-style atmosphere. Glass Vegas will take over the Las Vegas Ballys Hotel & Casino's entire convention center in 2020, and I won't be missing it. You shouldn't either.

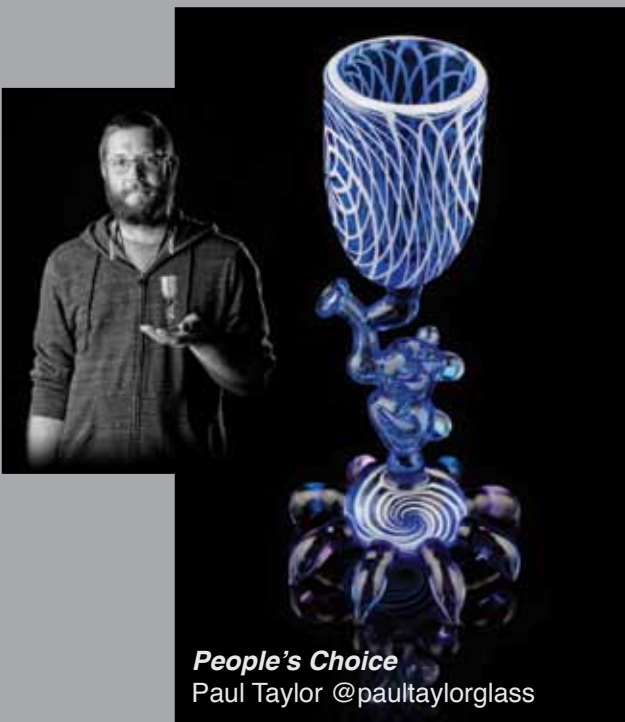
Visit Glass.Vegas to see the current and previous World Series of Glass winners, demos, and video recaps as well as register to attend WSOG in 2020.



Shot Glass



Second Place
Daniel Benway @piperdanglass



Mille



First Place and People's Choice
Stephen Boehme @stephen_boehme
Boehme portrait provided by the artist
Ian & Nadia Marrero @eon_glass



Second Place
Gabriel Hodges @gabrieljhodges
Ryan McCluer @ryan_mccluer
Michael McCluer @michaelmcccluer
McCluer portraits provided by the artists



Third Place
Dave Strobel @strobelglass



Collab



First Place
 Jerry Kelly @jkellyglass
 & Joe Peters @joepglass
*Peters portrait provided
 by the artist*



Second Place
 Lacey Walton @lacefaceglass
 & Emily Marie @emilymarieglass



Third Place
 Kristian Merwin @kristianmerwin
 & James Lynch @hicdogg



People's Choice
 Nick Eggert @classicalcreations & Gibbie Dowdy @licit

Solo

Second Place

Robert Raymond @drakkenglass



First Place

Lacey Walton @lacefaceglass



Third Place

Dave Rummel @rummelglass



People's Choice

Sean Witschger @gl_ashhole

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