

London Glassblowing sponsors new British Glass Biennale award

A new award has been added to the British Glass Biennale collection taking the current number of awards to seven.

The new award, Emerging Talent is sponsored by London Glassblowing. Work on display in the Biennale and the artist's developments and achievements leading up to the exhibition will all be taken into account by the judges. To qualify for this prestigious award, which comes with £3,000 of prize money the artist must have, no more than five years ago, either graduated from their first degree in glass studies or commenced their studio glass practice. This does not exclude those undergoing post-graduate studies in glass.

Elisabeth Johnson, Project Director, said: "Emerging talent hasn't been recognised in our awards in previous years so it is fantastic to be adding The London Glassblowing Emerging Talent Award to our collection. London Glassblowing, and in particular Peter and Ann Layton, have been supporters of the British Glass Biennale and International Festival of Glass for many years. This contribution is incredibly generous and really highlights their commitment to us and the glass world".

Peter Layton said: 'Now is the time, more than ever, in view of the increasing challenges faced by the medium, to encourage the next generation of young glass artists'.

The award will be given to an exceptional artist who is using the material in an original, inspired and thoughtful way. The judges will take into account their biographical material as well as the quality of the work in the Biennale.

The award is intended to provide monetary assistance for materials, further study, time to experiment or to attend a residency, for example. We hope that it will enhance their CV and if appropriate we also offer a work placement at London Glassblowing.

The winner of the London Glassblowing Emerging Talent Award will be decided by Peter Layton in consultation with the Biennale Jury.

Ends

For further PRESS information please contact Elisabeth Johnson on 07977 174749 or email elisabeth.johnson@rmt.org

Editors notes:

British Glass Biennale exhibition dates: 28 May to 28 June 2015

The **British Glass Biennale** will be held in the Glasshouse Arts Centre and Ruskin Glass Centre, The Glasshouse, Wollaston Road, Amblecote, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 4HF. For more information, visit www.biennale.org.uk

For more information about the International Festival of Glass visit www.ifg.org.uk

Additional Notes:

All award winners will be announced at the Private View and Awards Ceremony on 27 May 2015. The British Glass Biennale Award for Best in Show will be judged by the Biennale jury – Graham Fisher MBE – Director of the British Glass Foundation; Janice Blackburn – Curator of Contemporary Design for Sotheby's and 10 Downing Street; Mark Holford – Glass Collector; Jonathan Watkins – Director of the Ikon Gallery; David Reekie – Glass Artist.

The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London will judge their awards: Glass Sellers' Art & Craft Award; Glass Sellers' Art & Craft Award, Runner Up; Glass Sellers' Art & Craft Student Award; and Glass Sellers' Art & Craft Student Award, Runner Up. The Art in Action Award for Contemporary Glass will be judged by Stephen Prendergast.

The British Glass Biennale is part of the International Festival of Glass, a celebration of glass making from around the world. The Festival features world class exhibitions including the prestigious British Glass Biennale (28 May – 28 June); a series of masterclasses (25 – 28 May); and a four day public Festival (28 – 31 May). A full programme of open studios, exhibitions, workshops, talks, demonstrations and family activities will take place at the Ruskin Glass Centre and venues across the Stourbridge Glass Quarter.