



GlassCuts

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Images by Simon Bruntnell www.northlightphotography.co.uk

except where indicated - AM Allister Malcolm DW Darren Weed
TM Terri Malcolm

Design and layout: Mary Spence MBE

DYNAMIC DOODLING

*A commemorative edition celebrating the
completion of a remarkable initiative*

Allister Malcolm is, *az eny eejut knose*, an internationally recognized glassmaker and also a Trustee of the British Glass Foundation. As Sherlock Holmes memorably remarked to Watson in *The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter*: *'Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms'* and in Allister's case his own artistic side is clearly evident not only in his stunning expressions in supercooled amorphous silica - i.e. glass - but also in his sparkling initiative and mercurial inventiveness. For examples of the former visit his studio at Broadfield House Glass Museum or browse www.allistermalcolm.com. For the latter, look no further than his exciting *World's Longest Glassmaking Demonstration* held as part of the 2012 International Festival of Glass.

And thus it was that at a meeting of BGF Trustees, oh, let me think; perhaps the thick end of a couple of years or so ago, that he first proposed his gloriously madcap scheme to blag some of the rich and famous in this Parish and beyond to scribble a few lines or sketches on a piece of acetate with a marker pen. The proposal was to then present these to his chums in the industry for them to interpret the imagery into a piece of glass art. The end results could then be promoted to elevate profiles and sold at auction to raise funds for BGF coffers. Now be honest, is that completely bonkers or what? So we backed him to the hilt.

Regular readers will know that every stage of the project was recorded and laid before you via the pages of your fave-rave glass fanzine, *GlassCuts*. But now, as the **Celebrity Doodles Project** and its unanticipated spin-off **Kids Doodles** draw to their august conclusions, the team here in the shimmering opulence that is the Editorial Suite of *GlassCuts Towers* thought we would save you the trouble of trawling through the back-issues by collating it all together in this special cut-out-and-keep supplement. Here we go ...



British Glass Foundation

We start with the collection of doodles from the aforementioned rich and famous when our stock was given a fair boost by contributions from celebrated footballer Frankie Valli and smoothie crooner Sir Trevor Brooking (*check this - Ed*). Now I admit that I have no idea how we managed to get those, but the conspiracy theorists amongst you may have noted that BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE is Secretary of the Frankie Valli Fan Club and is also deeply involved with Kewford Eagles Football Club in Kingswinford where Sir Trevor was a recent visitor. Hmmmm I wonder? Anyway, in they continued to come: Maggie Philbin, Robert Plant, Tony Hadley, Lenny Henry (now 'Sir Lenny'), Beverley Knight, Steve Bull, Raymond Blanc ... the list continued to expand.

In early 2015 Allister, spotting an opportunity to engage with the community and the next generation of glass enthusiasts, had the brilliant wheeze of extending the invitation across local schools. *GlassCuts 64* carried the news:

This is just growing like topsy ... no sooner had we put the preceding paragraphs together (*update on progress - Ed*) than Allister bombards us with more Doodley-goings-on. This time he's working in conjunction with Kate Figgitt, Lifelong Learning and Access Coordinator for Dudley Museums Service, to pull together *The Doodle Challenge@Broadfield House Glass Museum*. This is a competition open to KS1, KS2 and KS3 pupils in the categories of: 7 and under, 11 and under, 13 and under. Here's how it works ... Allister and Kate want you kids to create a doodle using one of the following themes:

- * My day/what I love to do
- * Nasty Nature/Doodle Monster
- * My favourite month

They duly did. In their droves.

Around the same time, Richard Golding of Station Glass www.stationglass.com - he who blew the 2012 Portland Vase blanks, another astounding project that put Stourbridge squarely on the global map of glassmaking talent - confirmed his offer to create the inaugural piece using the doodle provided by Frankie Valli. On a bright spring morning in March 2015, with Allister working alongside him at Station Glass, to gasps of amazement from the crowd packed into his diminutive studio at Shenton, he produced an inspirational piece that was described in *GlassCuts 67*.

To top the day off, and by use of nothing more sophisticated than an iPhone and a bit of natty editing on a laptop, Allister's good lady Terri snared the lot in a quick-fire two-minute time lapse that captured it from start to finish and concludes with a comparison between the original scribbly doodle against Richard and Allister's exquisite interpretation of it. Click on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9JCMv1bG0Y&feature=em-share_video_user and prepare to be blown away; it is just incredible.

Things were really hotting up by now - no pun intended - and by the time of the 2015 International Festival of Glass (IFoG) held in May Allister had accrued not only a healthy balance-book of doodles but an equally impressive line-up of *artistes* ready to strut their stuff. There is no doubt that Allister's understated but determined personality and sheer affability were instrumental in his colleagues readily identifying with his endeavours and all was now set fair to go.

On Wednesday 27th May 2015 a presentation was held at Broadfield House Glass Museum where the winners of the *Kids Doodles* were announced. The glassmaking team had been hard at it; some of the doodles had already been translated into pieces and were lying in the cooling lehr. We couldn't see them in the flesh yet but Allister had snapped them on his iPhone

and it was obvious that the standard of both doodles and artwork was nudging towards the very top of the scale.

Throughout the rest of IFoG Allister and the team worked themselves to the limits in completing the lot. And it is at this juncture that I feel nothing more need be said. Take a look at the accompanying images and let them do the talking. In bringing you these we are once again grateful to our staunch supporter and the man behind the lens Simon Brunnell at www.northlightphotography.co.uk



for his exquisite imagery. Other images are acknowledged as indicated. The final mystifying word goes to Allister who told us: *'My favourite part was watching Elvis suspended in molten glass in slow motion. (Yeah, right - Ed). It was my most memorable and exhilarating festival of glass so far and I have only just now about recovered'*.

The entire collection is on display at Broadfield House Glass Museum as we speak. Quirky, innovative, insouciant, brilliant and unique in equal measure, I will stick my neck on the line in saying it will be a very long time before Broadfield House, or any other museum for that matter, sees another display like this so go experience it for yourself whilst there is still a chance. And if you are moved to the desire to see one in your home then the collection is scheduled for auction at *Decades of Design* hosted by Fieldings Auctioneers of Stourbridge on 24th October 2015, with all proceeds to the British Glass Foundation.

The *Celebrity Doodles* and *Kids Doodles* initiative is drawing to a close in splendid fashion. There have been so many involved and I am not brave enough to try and name them all here for fear of inadvertently omitting someone. But salvation is at hand in getting me out of my Editorial hole; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J98tGOezXVk&feature=youtu.be> hosts a delightful presentation of 5 mins 33 secs, again emanating from *Chez Malcolm*, that just about says it all for me.

This entire venture has been an incredible ride and all of us here at BGF would like to formally record our appreciation and sheer admiration for the efforts of everyone concerned. There is, however, one man who must be afforded due recognition for a simply spectacular project that emanated out of nowhere other than his fertile imagination yet which has captured everyone else's with such *panache*.

It is thus with a combination of pride and very great pleasure that we dedicate this special commemorative *GlassCuts* to our friend, colleague and thoroughly decent cove - Allister Malcolm, glassmaker *extraordinaire*.

Cheers, mate. Nice one.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Graham Fisher MBE'. The signature is stylized and includes the letters 'MBE' at the end.

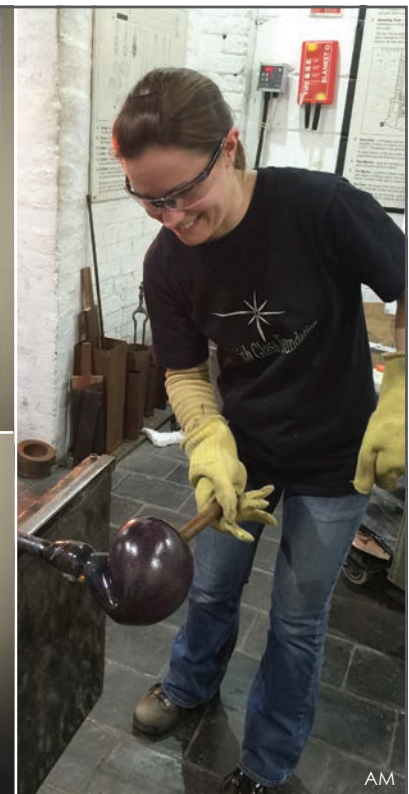
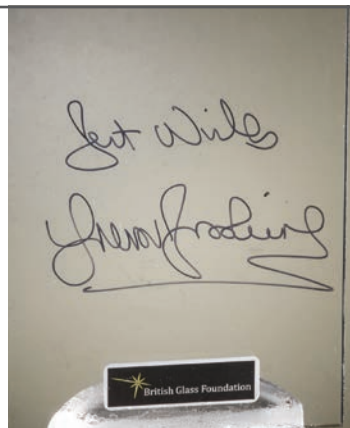
Graham Fisher MBE
PR&Comms
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CELEBRITY DOODLES

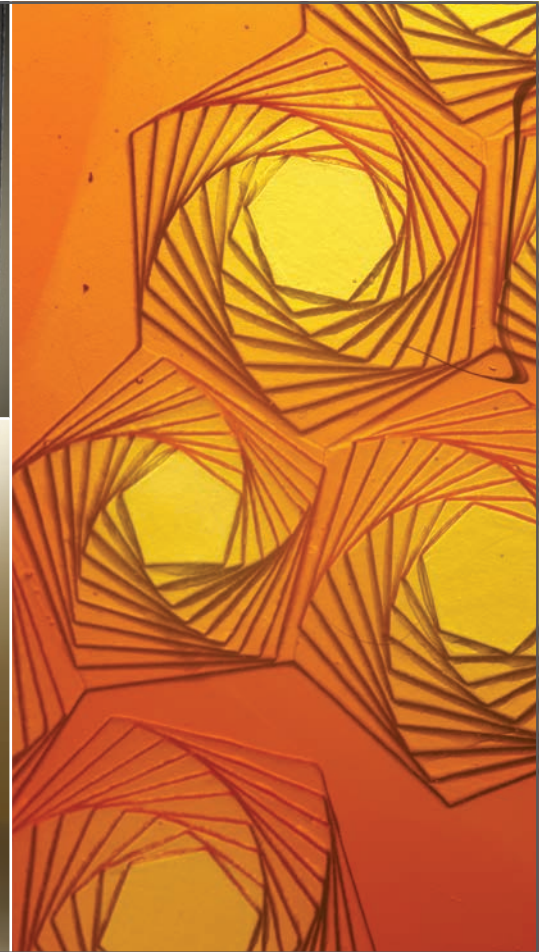
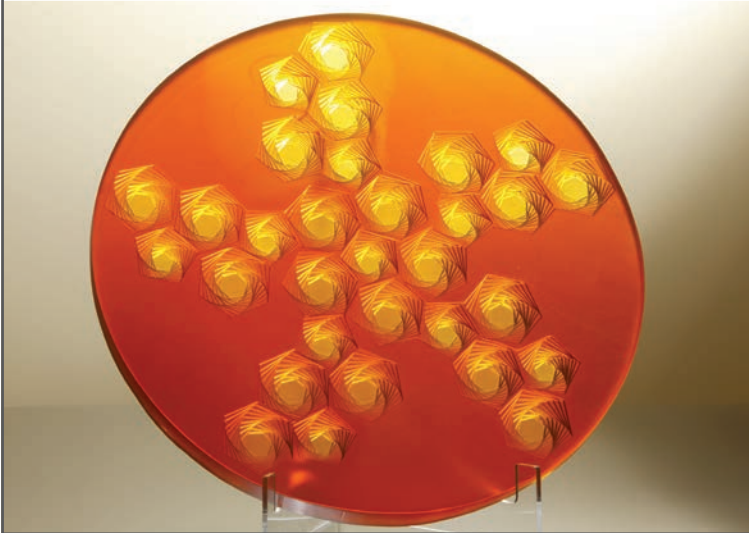
doodle by
RAYMOND BLANC
glass by
Nancy Sutcliffe



doodle by
SIR TREVOR BROOKING
glass by
Melissa Nicholls



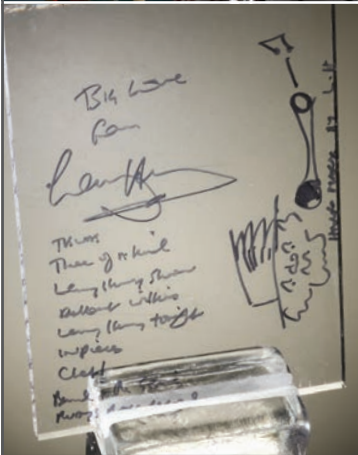
doodle by
STEVE BULL
glass by
Georgia Redpath



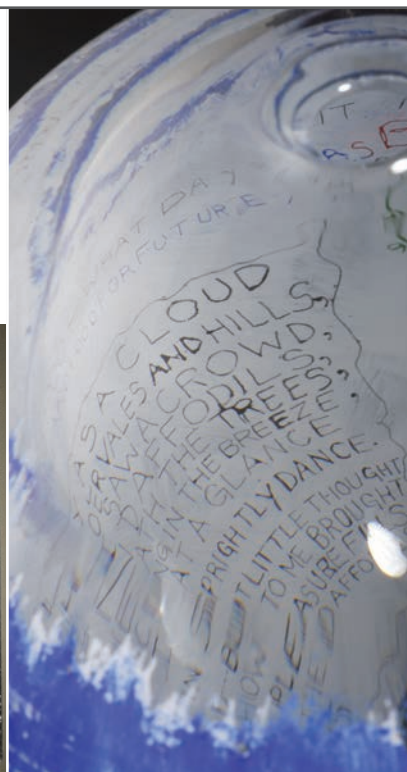
doodle by
TONY HADLEY
glass by
Terri-Louise
Colledge



doodle by
SIR LENNY HENRY
 glass by
 Jo Newman



doodle by
DAVE HILL
 glass by
 Vic Bamforth



doodle by
MARK HILL
 glass by
 Jonathan Harris



doodle by
BEVERLEY KNIGHT
 glass by
 Terri Malcolm
 Teresa Belmont



doodle by
ANDY MCCONNELLS

glass by
Simon Eccles



doodle by
MAGGIE PHILBIN

glass by
Elliot Walker
Tim Boswell



doodle by
ROBERT PLANT

glass by
Steve Piper



doodle by
GWEN RHYS

glass by
Nadia Lammas



doodle by
MOLLY SMITTEN-DOWNES

glass by
Jenny Pickford



doodle by
EMMA THOMPSON

glass by
Lynn Baker





In addition to the doodle-inspired artworks illustrated above, several other pieces were made at IFoG or donated by the artists for eventual sale at the *Decades of Design* auction at Fieldings in Stourbridge on 24th October 2015. Many thanks to all for their kind generosity.



KIDS DOODLES

