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Media Contacts:

Amanda Lansford
(206) 753-4924 | amandal@chihulygardenandglass.com

Kau'ilani Robinson
(206) 251-8920 | krobinson@visitseattle.org

Refract, the Pacific Northwest's Glass Festival, Returns for a Second Year

New virtual programming allows glass fans to safely enjoy programming from anywhere

SEATTLE, September 29, 2020 – More than 25 Pacific Northwest artists and arts organizations are coming together to again host Refract: The Seattle Glass Experience, held October 15-18, 2020. Following a successful first year, Refract continues as the region's only glass festival and demonstrates why the Pacific Northwest is known as the hub of glass art in the United States.

A mix of virtual online events and safely distanced in-person demonstrations and exhibitions will spotlight the artists who have put this region's glass community on the map. Programming, which is designed to appeal to both long-time collectors and those new to the medium, includes:

- Featured programs – Celebrate with artists and art-lovers alike during online events held by Pilchuck Glass School and Pike Place Market, enjoy a safely distanced happy hour and demonstration at Glass Eye Studio, and explore Chihuly Garden at Glass at night with a special after hours ticket.
- In-person exhibitions – Tour the Museum of Glass in Tacoma and enjoy new shows at Stonington Gallery, Gallery Mack, Traver Gallery and Vetri.
- Studio tours – Visit the showroom of Lino Tagliapietra, who has worked with glass for more than 70 years and earned the esteemed title of “Maestro” at age 21. Online and limited in-person studio visits are also offered by artists working in blown glass, stained glass, fused glass, and more.
- Demonstrations – Go behind-the-scenes and ask questions as artists show how to work with molten glass and neon. More than a dozen organizations and artists will host in-person and livestream demonstrations, including Seattle Glassblowing Studio, Glasshouse-Studio, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Radiant Neon and more.



A recent study on the [state of glass art](#) in the United States found artists believe the rise of sharing content online has been a significant factor in driving change and creating more interest and involvement in the glass world.

“The glass community's creativity has expanded exponentially over the past six months, and while the COVID pandemic has been devastating in so many ways, it has also provided many exciting opportunities,” said Brandi Clark, Executive Director of the Glass Art Society. “Artists, galleries, and collectors have developed new ways to connect and share their love of glass. The changes are breaking down traditional physical barriers, making glass more accessible and opening up possibilities to connect with artists directly or discover new talent.”

Participating organizations include:

- Art by Fire Glass and Glass School
- Avalon Glassworks
- Blowing Sands Glass Studio
- Bridget Culligan
- Carol Milne
- Chihuly Garden and Glass
- Dan Friday
- Friends in Glass
- Gallery Mack
- Glass Eye Studio
- Glasshouse-Studio
- Hilltop Artists
- Jason Christian
- Kait Rhoads
- Karen Seymour
- Lino Tagliapietra
- Museum of Glass
- Pike Place Market
- Pilchuck Glass School
- Preston Singletary Studio
- Pratt Fine Arts Center
- Radiant Neon
- Seattle Glassblowing Studio
- Seattle Stained Glass
- Seymour Stained Glass
- Stonington Gallery
- Traver Gallery
- Vetri
- Visit Seattle



Additional details on programming and events can be found at [RefractSeattle.org](https://refractseattle.org). Learn more about the study of the state of glass art in America at [LandscapeofGlass.com](https://landscapeofglass.com). Images for media use can be found at <https://visitseattle.canto.com/v/mediaimages/album/GCIGR>.

About Refract: The Seattle Glass Experience

Chihuly Garden and Glass, Visit Seattle and more than 25 Pacific Northwest artists and organizations are joining together for this annual festival, taking place October 15-18, 2020. This year's festival offers a unique mix of virtual online events and safely distanced in-person shows, demonstrations and exhibitions. Visit refractseattle.org for further details. Additional information on the study of the state of glass art in America can be found at [Landscapeofglass.com](https://landscapeofglass.com).

About Visit Seattle

Visit Seattle has served as the official destination marketing organization (DMO) for Seattle and King County for more than 50 years. A 501(c)(6) organization, Visit Seattle enhances the economic prosperity of the region through global destination branding along with competitive programs and campaigns in leisure travel marketing, convention sales and overseas tourism development. More than 41 million annual visitors spend \$8.1 billion in the city and county each year. The economic power of travel and tourism generates more than 80,000 Seattle area jobs and contributes \$837 million in annual state and local tax revenue. Visit visitseattle.org.

About Chihuly Garden and Glass

Located at Seattle Center, Chihuly Garden and Glass brings together all the elements of artist Dale Chihuly's work, including Drawings, signature glass series, large architectural installations and personal collections. This long-term Exhibition features indoor galleries, the centerpiece Glasshouse, and an ever-changing Garden, along with live glass demonstrations, a Theatre, and Collections Café, which features items from Chihuly's personal collections. Learn more at chihulygardenandglass.com.