

# The Glass Heart

## Art, Industry & Collaboration

Exhibition runs: 27 January – 21 April 2024

Press preview: 25 January 2024, 10am – 12pm

Two Temple Place, London WC2R 3BD [www.twotempleplace.org](http://www.twotempleplace.org) #theglassheart

Two Temple Place is delighted to announce **The Glass Heart**, a major new exhibition exploring the art and industry of glass in the UK.



Chris Day, *Judge & Jury*, 2023, glass & microbore copper pipe © The Artist. Courtesy of Vessel Gallery. Image Agata Pec.

Bringing together key regional collections, techniques and artists for the first time, **The Glass Heart** will present more than 100 glass artworks spanning 170 years, featuring Anthony Amoako-Attah, Edward Burne-Jones, Monster Chetwynd, Brian Clarke, Chris Day, Ryan Gander, Wilhelmina Geddes, Hardman & Co., Sam Herman, Alison Kinnaird, Peter Layton, Harvey Littleton, Pinkie Maclure, William Morris, Anne Vibeke Mou, John Piper, Ayako Tani, Christopher Whall and Emma Woffenden.

*The Glass Heart* will highlight works from the historic industrial glass heartlands of Stourbridge in the Black Country and Sunderland in the North East, alongside the contemporary home of stained glass at the Stained Glass Museum in Ely. It will explore the narratives central to glass art and manufacturing, and celebrate the timeless skills, artistry and innovation required to work with this challenging material.

Tracing a unique chronology of glass production through both industrial and artistic developments, the exhibition will demonstrate how distinctive styles were synonymous with regional stories and social histories. From cameo vessels featuring classical and mythological subject matter, to etched and engraved vases and commemorative goblets, the exhibition will examine the qualities of this reflective, expressive and sculptural form.

*The Glass Heart* will chart the resurgence of interest in glass during the time of the 1851 Great Exhibition, which marked a new age of glass mass production, ingenuity and technical virtuosity. Tracing an evolution to contemporary works, the exhibition will consider the beating heart and breath of glass, and look at the developing artistry of stained glass from the Arts & Crafts movement in the late 19th-century, a time characterised by collaboration and a renewed appreciation for design and craftsmanship. Highlights from Edward Burne-Jones, William Morris and Christopher Whall will consider stained glass as an inventive narrative artform.

*The Glass Heart* will also recognise the 20th-century artists who pushed the material's boundaries and traditions. Geoffrey Clarke, John Piper and Wilhelmina Geddes were among the first to explore painterly techniques and sculptural abstraction in stained glass. With the American studio glass movement of the 1960s – spearheaded in the UK by Sam Herman – the material was re-formed to express its innate qualities and sculptural possibilities.

Artists working today are increasingly finding new relevance in glass, using it to interrogate their own personal experiences with work that examines cultural heritage, identity, environmental crisis and collective histories. Works will include Chris Day's *Judge & Jury* (2023), articulating his journey in glass as a mixed-race artist and society's obsession with passing judgement. A large stained glass piece by Pinkie Maclure, *The Soil* (2023), will consider the climate crisis, sustainability and salvation, while Anthony Amoako-Attah's glass bags will speak of fragility and strength in homage to Ghanaian Kente textiles, and window roundels from Punjabi Desi pub culture commemorate place and hybrid identity in the Midlands.

*The Glass Heart* will defy expectations about the medium to encourage a wider understanding of glass and its ability to contain stories that reflect our human condition – from the religious and mythological to the shared and personal.

The exhibition is conceived and curated by curator and writer Antonia Harrison.

**Antonia Harrison said:** *"As a material, glass has a particular vitality. From the molten state of its formation to the reflective and light emitting qualities of its final form, glass retains an amorphous heart. As artist Sam Herman pronounced, Glass is a dance of immediacy'. These vital qualities lend glass its particular power as an artistic medium – one which reflects, commemorates and illuminates our human condition."*

***The Glass Heart* is a Two Temple Place exhibition, produced in partnership with National Glass Centre Sunderland, The Stained Glass Museum, Ely and Stourbridge Glass Museum.**

## Looking ahead to 2025 at Two Temple Place

### *Lives Less Ordinary* (working title)

January – April 2025

The 2025 exhibition at Two Temple Place will celebrate the overlooked richness and diversity of working-class culture and creative expression in post-war Britain.

Works from key UK archives and public collections will offer a nuanced and authentic reflection on working-class experiences, brought together in an architectural setting that both manifests and interrogates wealth and privilege. With works ranging through photography, painting, sculpture and ceramics, the exhibition will challenge enduring misrepresentations of the working-classes on the walls of our institutions, showcasing artists who define working-class culture and identities on their own terms.

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#### **The Glass Heart – Events & Activities**

The exhibition will be accompanied by a wide-ranging programme of cultural events for adults and children including talks, lectures, demonstrations, workshops and Wednesday Late openings until 9pm, as well as the acclaimed Two Temple Place programme for state sector primary schools.

#### **Opening Times**

Tuesday, Thursday - Saturday: 11am – 6pm

Wednesday Late: 11am - 9pm, Sunday: 11am - 4:30pm

Closed on Mondays & Easter Sunday

**ADMISSION FREE**

## **EDITORS' NOTES:**

#### **About Two Temple Place**

Two Temple Place is a magnificent and eccentric neo-Gothic mansion in central London, owned and run by registered charity the Bulldog Trust. Since 2011, a major free annual exhibition programme showcasing regional public collections has invited 400,000 people to see some of the UK's little-known artworks, offering curating and employment opportunities for early career cultural talent. The exhibition forms the flagship heart of a programme that shares the hidden gem of Two Temple Place more widely, with more



people, for more of the year through cultural and community partnerships. The building inspires, provokes and welcomes creative reimaginations of its spaces, new retellings of its stories, and new artistic responses to its history and craftwork.

### **About National Glass Centre, Sunderland**

Sunderland Culture is a place-based partnership founded by Sunderland City Council, University of Sunderland and Sunderland Music Arts and Culture Trust. It is a registered charity, and company limited by guarantee. Its board comprises representation from the three founding partners and independent trustees.

Sunderland Culture is an Arts Council England NPO. It delivers public programmes including exhibitions, performances, events, participation, learning and audience development activities, across the following venues on behalf of its partners: Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens and Arts Centre Washington for Sunderland City Council; National Glass Centre and Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art for the University of Sunderland; and The Fire Station for the Sunderland Music Arts & Culture Trust.

### **About The Stained Glass Museum, Ely**

The Stained Glass Museum boasts a nationally-significant collection of stained glass, associated designs, materials and tools which reveal the development of this unique art from the 13th century to present day. The museum's permanent gallery space in the triforium of Ely Cathedral houses a chronological display featuring stained glass from the museum's own collection as well as from partner organisations the V&A and the Royal Collection. Displayed at eye-level, visitors can experience this art form at close quarters. An engaging learning programme for all ages sees practical glass workshops led by professional artists, talks, tours and family activities held throughout the year.

An independent accredited museum and registered charity since its foundation in 1972, The Stained Glass Museum has rescued a large quantity of stained glass from redundant buildings, many of them churches and chapels, but also synagogues, hospitals, houses and schools, which otherwise would have been lost.

### **About Stourbridge Glass Museum**

Stourbridge Glass Museum is a fascinating testament to the rich history and artistic tradition of glassmaking. Located in the glassmaking heartlands in Stourbridge, West Midlands, this unique museum showcases an extensive collection of beautiful glass objects.

Visitors to the museum can explore the evolution of glassmaking, starting from its roots in the UK some four centuries ago, through to contemporary glass art. The museum offers a comprehensive look at the techniques, tools, and artists that have shaped the local glass industry over the years, as well as showcasing live glassblowing and glass engraving demonstrations from contemporary artists.

The museum also hosts regular exhibitions that feature contemporary glass artists, providing a platform for innovation and creativity. In addition to its exhibitions, the museum offers educational programmes, workshops, and demonstrations, allowing visitors to gain a deeper understanding of the glassmaking process and try their hand at creating their own glass art.

Two Temple Place is grateful to the Bulldog Trust for its generous support of this exhibition.

