

**PRESS RELEASE: January 9, 2018**

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**SAT JAN 19 JOIN TACOMA ART MUSEUM'S  
REBECCA & JACK BENAROYA WING OPENING CELEBRATION  
FEATURES GLASS ART, ART MAKING, JAZZ & DANCE  
PERFORMANCES & MORE!**

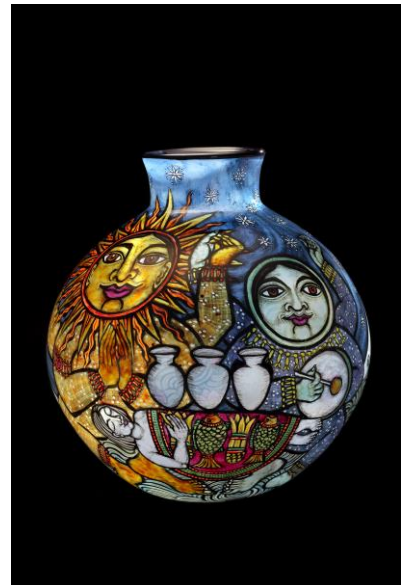


Saturday January 19, 2019 Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) will positively shimmer with excitement with the Grand Opening of the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Wing. The museum will present three exhibitions that celebrate the ongoing contributions of studio art glass in the Northwest. Join the Grand Opening festivities, and be one of the first to experience the new galleries and exhibitions.

“Our history with glass art begins in 1970 with an exhibition of modern Danish glass and the acquisition of glass art to the permanent collection,” explains Executive Director David F. Setford. “With our new Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Wing, TAM stands proudly as one of the nation’s top studio art glass collecting institutions. The Benaroya Collection brings to our museum iconic works by Dale Chihuly, Howard Ben Tré, Lino Tagliapietra, and many other internationally acclaimed artists.” The Benaroya Collection joins the Dale Chihuly Collection, the Anne Gould Hauberg Collection, and the Paul Marioni Collection at

TAM. These bring the total to more than 900 works of studio glass art in the permanent collection.

In conjunction with the exhibition, TAM will offer a new collection catalogue *Metaphor into Form: The Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Collection*. This volume fully illustrates all 353 works in the Benaroya collection, ranging from French glass of the 1930’s to Northwest painting and sculptures to iconic works by artists closely associated with the Pilchuck Glass School. The catalogue also includes new scholarship by Tina Oldknow, former chief curator of the Corning Museum of Glass; Stefano Catalani, former artistic director of the Bellevue Arts Museum; Aruna D’Souza, art historian and curator; and Rock Hushka, TAM Chief Curator.



The opening exhibitions highlight the importance of the Pilchuck Glass School. *Metaphor into Form: Art in the Era of the Pilchuck Glass School* brings together key works from the museum's collections, and the Benaroya collection, that illuminate the extraordinary creativity and innovation that was sparked by artists working at Pilchuck. Highlights from the Benaroya Collection include *Green Eye of the Pyramid III* by Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová and *Vienna* by Clifford Rainey. Other works from TAM's permanent collection feature the scope and strength of the collection, notably works by Dante Marioni, Josiah McEleheny, Nancy Mee, and Cappy Thompson. Additional works featured include a selection of prints from the Pilchuck print shop, *Blanket* by Jen Elek, and *Jewelry Window* by Charles LeDray.

*Debora Moore: Arboria* is an exhibition that signals an ambitious new direction by artist Debora Moore. By creating four life-size flowering trees in glass, the artist explores the four seasons through sweeping forms adorned with dozens of glass blossoms that hint at the delicacy and lushness of the annual cycle. "We are thrilled to have this opportunity to support Debora Moore's new vision," reports Rock Hushka, deputy director and chief curator. "Her installation offers a magical experience made possible only by the beauty of glass."

A selection of portraits by Mary Van Cline from *The Documenta Series*, line the wall entering the new wing. In this work, Van Cline seeks to make portraits of the artists, collectors, and leaders of the first generation of studio glass movement. Her long friendships and relationships with her subjects allow Van Cline to capture her sitters at ease and reveal enticing hints about their creative powers.



The monumental installation *Current*, by Martin Blank, has been newly installed in the museum's lobby. Blank captures the power and beauty of the Northwest environment through his 30-foot long glass sculpture. The colors and forms of the glass mimic the reflections of light in the rushing waterways that crisscross the Puget Sound region.

Public celebrations begin at 10 am on Saturday January 19<sup>th</sup> with the first public access to the elegant and light-filled galleries designed by Olson Kundig. The

project was completed on time and on budget by JTM Construction. With the City of Tacoma's Bridge of Glass, the Museum of Glass, and the expanded offerings at TAM, Tacoma becomes one of the must-see destinations for enthusiasts of studio glass art in the country.

Opening day activities include:

- Poetry readings inspired by glass art on view by SOTA, SAMI, and IDEA students
- Dance performance by Seattle artist Kate O'Day inspired by Martin Blank's *Current*
- Free lecture by William Warmus, former Chief Curator of the Corning Museum of Glass
- Jazz performance by 322
- Art making: Fused glass tile making by Hilltop Artists and monotype making

**PRESS TOUR TOMORROW: THURS JAN 10 at 11 AM; RSVP to Adrienne Edmonson at: [AEdmonson@TacomaArtMuseum.org](mailto:AEdmonson@TacomaArtMuseum.org) or 253-272-4258 x 3051**

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## Image credits, top to bottom:

**Debora Moore**, *Arboria* (detail of cherry blossom), 2018. Glass, in progress. Courtesy of the artist. Photo by Rozarii Lynch.

**Cappy Thompson**, *I Receive a Great Blessing from the Sun and the Moon: I Will Be an Artist and Walk the Path of Beauty*, 1995. Blown glass and fired enamels, 17 x 14 1/2 x 14 1/2 in. Tacoma Art Museum, Gift of Anne Gould Hauberg, 2013.12.15. Photo by Doug Yapple.

**Martin Blank**, *Current*, 1994. Glass, reclaimed wood, and metal, 162 x 360 x 96 in. Tacoma Art Museum, Gift of Rosalind Poll, 2018.2. Photo courtesy of the artist.

## PROJECT CREDITS:

Completed: 2018

Project Size: 6,595 SF (4,800 SF gallery space)

Project Team: Tom Kundig, FAIA, RIBA, Design Principal; Kirsten R. Murray, FAIA, Principal; Kimberly Shoemake-Medlock, Project Manager; Thomas Brown, LEED® AP, Project Manager; Brian Walters, LEED® AP, Laura Bartunek, Rehanna Rojiani, Architectural Staff; Vikram Sami, AIA, BEMP, LEED® AP BD+C, Building Performance; Michelle Arab, ASLA, Landscape Architecture

Key Consultants: JTM Construction, General Contractor; CPL, Civil Engineer; PCS, Structural Engineer; WSP, Mechanical and Electrical Engineer; Arup, Lighting Design; BRC Acoustics & Audiovisual Design, Acoustic Consultant

### About Tacoma Art Museum

Celebrating over 80 years, Tacoma Art Museum is an anchor in Tacoma's downtown with a mission of connecting people through art. TAM's collection contains more than 5,000 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader Western region, 25% which consists of studio glass. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on permanent view; the most significant collection of studio art jewelry by Northwest artists; key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art; and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. In 2012, TAM received a gift of more than 300 works of western American art from the Haub Family Collection, one of the premier such collections in the nation and the first major western American art museum collection in the Northwest. The Haub family also contributed \$20 million for an endowment and expansion completed in 2014. TAM is located in the heart of Tacoma's vibrant Museum District which consists of six museums including the Museum of Glass, a frequent collaborator.

**HOURS** – Tues–Sun 10 am–5 pm; FREE Neighborhood Nights every Thursday 5–8 pm; Fourth Fridays 10 am–8 pm.

**ADMISSION** – \$15 Adult, \$13 Student/Senior (65+), \$40 Family (2 adults and up to 4 children under 18), Children 5 and under free every day. Children 18 and under free every Saturday. TAM Members; active duty military, reservists, veterans, and their families always free.

**CONTACT** – 253-272-4258, [TacomaArtMuseum.org](http://TacomaArtMuseum.org), [info@TacomaArtMuseum.org](mailto:info@TacomaArtMuseum.org)

