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SOCIETY

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GLASS ART SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2015 TECHNOLOGY ADVANCING GLASS GRANT RECIPIENTS

September 10, 2015 — The Glass Art Society is delighted to announce the 2015 Technology Advancing Glass (TAG) Grant will support four innovative research projects from around the world. Top recipient, **Saman Kalantari**, will be awarded \$5,000, and runners-up **Michal Czeisler**, **Helen Lee**, and the collaborative team of **Chrysler Museum Glass Studio** and the **National Institute of Aerospace at Langley**, will each receive \$2,000 to fund research on new materials, techniques, making methods, and applications of technology in glass art.

Established in 2014, the purpose TAG Grant is to provide financial support for projects that employ a technological approach to solving a problem or researching an idea related to the field of art glass. This program follows the worldwide educational trend that combines science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) with the arts (STEAM) to accelerate the development of new, expressive forms.

"We were thrilled with the quality and diversity of the proposals submitted in this, the second year of the TAG Grant program. What the glass community is exploring and researching, with a small assist from the TAG Grant, will produce benefits throughout the artistic world," said Ted Lagreid, grant committee member and benefactor.

Between 2005 and 2007, **Saman Kalantari** developed a new way of making pâte de verre called Flexible Glass Sheet (FGS). These paper-thin sheets can be easily cut, bent, folded, and shaped into complicated forms. Kalantari will use the award money to further develop this technique and create a larger, semi-industrial scale product that can be made available to other glass artists. "For many of my students, which some of them were already established or emerging artists, this product resolved their problems and gave them solutions they were looking for and it opened new horizons to them," he says. It will [also] be a good material and method for those instructors who teach to children or person with some level of disabilities."

Michal Czeisler's project titled, *Glass Paper*, explores the technical and structural aspects of creating kirigami and pop-up art in glass. Some of the main goals of this research are: testing ways to make reusable metal molds with laser cutting technology, creating large-scale artworks that are both strong and robust in structure but light and elegant in design, and finding the right connectors for the glass pieces to enable the

objects to pop up out of a glass sheet. “This project aims to prove that atypical yet simple techniques can accomplish excellent results,” says Czesler. “I have often found that when working with glass, an artist can become so occupied with the techniques required that there is little time left to work on ideas.”

Helen Lee seeks to quantify and visualize the mechanical forces of turning a pipe in the process of blowing glass through the development of a Smart Pipe. This blowpipe will capture data about the process (speed of turning, rate of change in velocity, number of turns, etc.) and offer us the opportunity for feedback, observation, and insight into this process. Lee explains, “I think the glass community could improve upon the elementary grunt of “TURN!” Turn how much faster? When? And for how long? These visualizations could help answer these questions more specifically, and provide another tool to understand one’s own process.”

A collaborative team of glass and 3D modeling experts from the **Chrysler Museum Glass Studio** and the **National Institute of Aerospace** at Langley, with intellectual support from **Fred Metz**, president and founder of Spiral Arts, have partnered to design a 3D glass printing machine that builds and expands upon existing technology. As stated in their proposal, “This model differs from current options by using thin rods as feed stock (rather than molten feed or a powdered glass solution), and allows greater flexibility with the objects produced.... [which] can be customized to match a specific glass formula, enabling both artists and scientists the ability to alter and manipulate the part after the printing process.” This new technology will become the center point of a new residency program offered through the Studio in January 2016.

The Glass Art Society would like to thank **Ted and Melissa Legreid**, as well as **Wayne Stratman**, for their continued support of the TAG Grant program. If you would like to donate to this fund, please visit http://www.glassart.org/donate_to_GAS.html.

About the Glass Art Society

Founded in 1971, the Glass Art Society is an international non-profit organization whose purpose is to encourage excellence, to advance education, to promote the appreciation and development of the glass arts, and to support the worldwide community of artists who work with glass. GAS strives to stimulate communication among artists, educators, students, collectors, gallery and museum personnel, art critics, manufacturers, and all others interested in and involved with the production, technology and aesthetics of glass. We are dedicated to creating greater public awareness and appreciation of the glass arts