

Berlin Glas, e.V.

Annual Director's Report: 2014



Executive summary for 2014

Above all, 2014 was a very successful year for the studio, both for our growing exposure and fiscally. We increased the number of invoices by 40% and we were able to employ a Studio Manager.

January:

- In January, Leah Duperreault came from Canada as a visiting artist and stayed until the end of February. She assisted me in preparing the studio and relighting the furnace at the end of the month. I made the decision in September 2013 that the artists chosen for our residency programme will be appointed, rather than chosen by a jury. I wanted to invite Mona Hatoum as our first AiR and in January, I had an appointment to show her the studio. She was very happy to learn that there was a hot-glass facility in Berlin and accepted the invitation for the residency.

February:

- The furnace came back on the 1st of February, and our first project was with an Italian artist, Francesco Cavaliere.
- From 10-14 February, Jesse Günther flew from Dublin to teach a Kids Blow Glas workshop with the Carl-von-Ossietsky-Gemeinschaftsschule in Kreuzberg and be gaffer for artist Kalle Hassum and Design Studio Coordination Berlin.
- The Kids Blow Glas workshop had a special twist, as we collaborated with Hilltop Artists in Residence in Tacoma, Washington, USA. The kids thought of a design that we sent to Hilltop via email and the youths at Hilltop did the same. We then sent the piece we made to Tacoma and Hilltop to us, which I delivered to the class in March!
- On the 18th of February, we collaborated with the Jugendhaus Königstadt in Mitte to give the youths at the centre a flameworking workshop with Leah Duperreault showing off her extraordinary skills in making beads. The youths were mesmerized and the majority of the workshop was spent choosing images and watching Leah bring them to life.

March:

- Jeff Ballard arrived in Berlin via Denmark on the 20th of March. He was invited to be the principle gaffer, along with Jesse Günther, for the Mona Hatoum Residency that started on the 30th of March.
- Jeff Ballard worked on a large commission for 40 lamps for the Barkett Café in Schöneberg

April:

- In April we had our first Artist in Residence – Mona Hatoum 30.03. – 04.04.
- We ran our first Mold-Making/Mold Blowing workshop 10-12.04. This class filled right away and so we scheduled 2 more throughout the year. It has become our most popular workshop that we offer!
- We did a very difficult commission for Remi Bigot, a French designer who wanted to make a prototype of a bottle. The project was good in that we started to think about making a cold-working area in the hot shop, and this

was when I decided to break the wall and join the two studios in the building together.

May:

- May was a busy month in the studio! On the 8th we received a group of youths from the Gymnasium Panketal.
- Madeline Prowd, the first of our Australian Visiting Artists arrived on the 7th of May, and Justin Ginsberg arrived two weeks later on the 20th.
- The DMY Berlin asked us if we want to collaborate and be part of the Berlin Design Week. They also invited us to make the awards for the DMY Festival with artist Philipp Weber. They made an excellent video of Philipp Weber working with Jesse Günther and Madeline Prowd.
- As part of Berlin Design Week, we presented Philipp Weber's Creation of a Strange Symphony on the 29th of May. Concept: Philipp Weber (Germany, Gaffer: Christophe Genard (Belgium) with assistance from Jesse Günther (Ireland/Germany), Madeline Prowd (Australia) and the music by the engineer of Philipp's special blow-pipes, Mart van Hest.
- Commission work:
 - Julian Leuchner 02.05
 - Mattias Müller 12.05
 - Carmina Blank 30.05
 - Claudia Vitari 23.05
 - Mona Hatoum 30.05

June:

- Berlin Glas e.V. was featured during the Berlin Design Week as an external venue. Madeline Prowd gave public glassblowing demos, and there was one collaborative demo with Jesse Günther and Justin Ginsberg.
- Justin Ginsberg was our second Artist in Residence between 16-20 June. We organized a vernissage of his works – Décadence - in the empty building across from the studio.
- Justin Ginsberg's residency culminated in a talk at the EHSM conference in Hamburg, during which Nadania Idriss gave a bead making demonstration.
- We had two visiting artists – Richard Whiteley and Neal Paustian, who assisted Justin Ginsberg during his residency.
- Kids Blow Glas workshop with Wendepunkt from 2-6 June
- Commission work:
 - Mona Hatoum 24.06.

July:

- We went to visit the Interkultureller Garten in Lichtenberg, where artist Torsten Röttsch was building a furnace in the old medieval style. The director of the Garten project invited Berlin Glas e.V. to collaborate on a workshop, which we planned for April 2015.
- Mold-Making/Mold-Blowing class 10-13.07.
- Our second Australian Visiting Artist and Endeavour Award recipient, Ruth Oliphant, arrived in Berlin on 14th of July.
- Delivery of Bullseye glass for Ruth Oliphant's residency. The company generously donated 100 sheets of clear glass and 40 colours.

August:

- Artist in Residence: Club S+S (Stephen Paul Day and Sibylle Peretti) 4-8 August
- We turned the furnace off for nearly 4 weeks during this period, as a short Summer pause.
- Kiln forming class taught by Ruth Oliphant 17-17 August

September:

- The furnace was turned on again during the first week of September.
- National College of Art and Design Erasmus Intern Sadhbh Mowlids arrived on 15 September
- We began to teach an In-depth Glassblowing class, offering 36 hours of glassblowing within 3 months.
- Commission work:
 - Jeppe Hein 10-12 September
 - Nico Nimz 17.09 and 24.09

October:

- 1st Open Studio Day on the 5th of October. It was a very successful event, visited by nearly 60 people throughout the day. We ran 2 workshops at the same time – Kiln Forming and Mold-Making/Mold-Blowing 3-5.10 - so the visitors were able to get a very good impression of what the studio offers.
- Richard Wheeler's Neon Workshops came and set-up their mobile studio in Berlin Glas for a 4-day workshop 10-13 October
- Jesse Guenther's work was in Animal Planet, an exhibition within the framework of the European Glass Festival in Wroclaw, Poland. The vernissage was on 13 October in Wroclaw.
- A group from the University of Sunderland's glass programme visited us in the studio.
- Nadania Idriss travelled to meet with representatives of TGK, BVD and Rhode at the Glastech in Duesseldorf on the 21st of October. I asked whether they would be interested in donating a casting (TGK and BVD) and fusing kiln (Rhode) to the studio. TGK and BVD were very interested and in 2015, they sent us a fusing kiln.
- Following Glastech, Nadania Idriss met with the studio team in Wuertheim to visit Hans Ittig's studio. Hans donated a lathe and glass supplies!
- TGK sent us a silk-screening kit as a donation and Kugler sent us coloured frits for the Kids Blow Glas programme.
- Commission work:
 - Nico Nimz 06.10. and 24.10.
 - Coordination Berlin 15.10.
 - Michelberger Hotel 20.10.

November:

- SOFA Chicago 1-4.11.2014
- Kids Blow Glas 18-21.11.
- Artist in Residence: Ayse Ermen 24-28.11.
- Commission work:
 - Melanie Ebenhoch 17.11.

- Roberto Castro 17-18.11.

December:

- Kids Blow Glas 3-12.12.
- Jesse Guenther Metamorphosis 12.12.
- Commission work:
 - Michelberger Hotel – production of 100 lamps! 30.11.-3. 12.
 - Bettina Khano 2-6.12.

We turned the furnace off on 12.12. following Jesse Guenther's performance, and the studio closed until the new year!

Nadania Idriss